

NEWS RELEASE

Attention Business/News Editors

## **Owen Sound Joins WSIB on Road to Zero Injuries, Illnesses and Fatalities**

**TORONTO, September 10, 2008** – City of Owen Sound Mayor Ruth Lovell has signed on to the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board's (WSIB) Community Workplace Health and Safety Charter, committing the city to eliminating workplace injuries, illnesses and fatalities.

"We know that successful workplace safety begins at the top," said Steve Mahoney, WSIB Chair. "That's why I'm thrilled that Mayor Lovell and her council have endorsed the Charter and committed to serve as role models for all employers in their community. Together, we need to build a culture of workplace health and safety in every Ontario municipality where the only acceptable number of workplace injuries and illnesses is zero."

On its "Road to Zero," the WSIB runs high-profile and striking public awareness campaigns to help eliminate workplace injuries and fatalities in Ontario. The Charter is the WSIB's latest tool being used to increase awareness of the importance of workplace safety. By signing the Charter with the WSIB, the City of Owen Sound has made a public commitment to actively participate in eliminating workplace injuries, illnesses and fatalities in their community.

Over the coming weeks and months, municipalities across Ontario will add their names to the growing list of Ontario cities and towns committed to safer workplaces and communities. More than two dozen municipalities have already signed the Charter, including Mississauga, Sudbury and Windsor.

"The estimated direct and indirect costs of workplace injuries across Ontario cost about \$15 billion per year," says Mahoney. "That's money that could be invested in communities; instead, that money is taken out of the economy by workplace injuries – injuries that are 100% preventable."

Ontario's Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) plays a key role in the province's occupational health and safety system. The WSIB administers no-fault workplace insurance for employers and their workers and is committed to the prevention of workplace injuries and illnesses. The WSIB provides disability benefits, monitors the quality of healthcare, and assists in early and safe return to work for workers who are injured on the job or contract an occupational disease.

-30-

For further information, please contact:

Christine Arnott  
WSIB Media Relations  
(416) 344-4202  
christine\_arnott@wsib.on.ca