



Planned Hiring Increase Sparks Concerns About Young Worker Safety

51% of businesses have a safety training program for new employees, 19% have no emergency or safety training in place

For Immediate Release

April 18, 2020, Toronto, ON - A new national Young Workers Survey conducted among members of the Angus Reid Forum on behalf of Threads of Life found a majority of businesses plan to hire as many or more young workers than they have in the past two years. Although 69 per cent of employers have an orientation program for new employees, only half - 51 per cent - have a safety program.

“It was reassuring to see that many of the employers have an orientation program for new employees, and more than half have a safety program,” observed Shirley Hickman, Executive Director of Threads of Life, a non-profit organization that supports families dealing with workplace injuries and death. “But we worry about the safety of young people working for businesses that do not have safety programs - and particularly the 19 per cent of employers who reported no orientation, onboarding, emergency or safety training in place for new employees.”

These are the key findings of a survey conducted by Threads of Life from March 23-25, 2022 among a sample of 545 hiring managers who are members of the Angus Reid Forum. The survey was conducted in English and French.

- 75% of businesses either have young workers on staff or plan to hire young workers in 2022
- 66% will hire as many or more young workers than they have in the past two years
- About a quarter (27%) of companies in high-risk sectors (agriculture/resources, construction, energy, manufacturing and transportation) plan to hire more young workers than in the previous two years
- 69% of the employers have an orientation program for new employees, and half - 51% - have a safety program

“We are not safety experts, but because of their own experience with tragedy, our members have an intense personal interest in workplace health and safety. We are deeply committed to preventing future tragedies,” explains Hickman, who lost her own son in an explosion at the arena he worked at in London, Ontario. “We want employers, young workers and their parents

to understand the risks they face when starting a new job and their rights and responsibilities for safety and health.”

Key Dates and Events:

April 24th - Interview, Photo and Video Opportunity

Steps for Life - Walking for Families of Workplace Tragedy Toronto takes place at Coronation Park, 711 Lake Shore Blvd W,. Registration opens at 10:00 AM; and the walk kicks off at approximately 10:30 AM

This Threads of Life fundraiser and awareness event brings together families who have been affected by workplace tragedy and includes, businesses, labour and injury prevention organizations

Find the dates and locations for [Steps for Life](#) events across Canada [HERE](#)

April 28th

National Day of Mourning - remembering lost lives, injury or illness due to a work-related tragedy

Families and survivors are available across Canada for media interviews about their personal experience. Executive Director Shirley Hickman is available for interviews about Threads of Life, the Young Workers survey results and her own personal story.

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About Threads of Life

The Association for Workplace Tragedy Family Support (known as Threads of Life) is currently supporting the healing journey of more than 3,200 family members across Canada who have suffered from a workplace fatality, traumatic life-altering injury, or occupational disease. Charitable organization business #87524 8908 RR0001.

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About Angus Reid Forum surveys:

The precision of Angus Reid Forum online polls is measured using a credibility interval. In this case, the poll is accurate to within +/- 4.2 percentage points, 19 times out of 20, had all Canadians been polled. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including but not limited to, coverage error and measurement error.

About the Angus Reid Forum:

The Angus Reid Forum is Canada's most well-known and trusted online public opinion community consisting of engaged residents across the country who answer surveys on topical issues that matter to all Canadians.