

05-18

For Immediate Release
February 10, 2005

NUMBER OF HEALTH AND SAFETY INSPECTORS TO DOUBLE IN HAMILTON OFFICE IN APRIL

Government Delivering On Plan To Protect Workers, Make Workplaces Safer

HAMILTON — The Ontario government is training seven new health and safety inspectors to begin work in Hamilton in April, Hamilton West Mountain MPP Judy Marsales announced today.

“This marks an important new investment by this government in the health and safety of workers in the Hamilton area – and across Ontario,” said Marsales. “Increased enforcement will promote safer workplaces and provide Ontarians with a quality of worklife second to none.”

The new inspectors will double the size of the local health and safety inspector staff. In 2004, the current seven inspectors investigated 70 critical injuries and 4 fatalities, issued 216 orders and carried out about 173 inspections of workplaces in the city.

Marsales made today’s announcement at a training session for the Hamilton inspectors at the ministry’s Hamilton district office. The inspectors are now undergoing a combination of hands-on and classroom-based instruction before graduation in April 2005.

An additional 100 inspectors will be hired over the next year to fulfill the government’s July 8, 2004 commitment to hire 200 new health and safety enforcement staff across Ontario to reduce workplace injuries by 20 per cent by 2008.

The new inspectors will:

- Allow the government to initially target 6,000 workplaces with the highest lost-time injury rates
- Visit these sites four times a year
- Focus on workplace hazards to help firms reduce on-the-job injuries

“We are taking decisive action to make a real difference in the lives of Ontario workers and boost the competitiveness of Ontario businesses,” said Marsales.

-30-

Contacts:

Jill Dowling
Office of Judy Marsales, MPP
905-529-1277

Belinda Sutton
Ministry of Labour
416-326-7405

Disponible en français

www.gov.on.ca/lab/