

05-17

For Immediate Release
February 8, 2005

12 NEW HEALTH AND SAFETY INSPECTORS TO JOIN LONDON OFFICE IN APRIL

Government Delivering On Plan To Protect Workers, Make Workplaces Safer

LONDON — The Ontario government is training 12 new health and safety inspectors to begin work in London in April, London North Centre MPP Deborah Matthews announced today.

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

There are currently 16 inspectors in London. In 2004, they investigated 71 critical injuries, issued 1,061 orders and carried out about 737 inspections of workplaces in the city.

Matthews made today’s announcement at a training session for the London inspectors at the ministry’s London 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 Matthews.

-30-

Contacts:
Belinda Sutton
Ministry of Labour
416-326-7405

Disponible en français