

RECOMMENDATION #2

WORKPLACE SAFETY ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARD FOR HEALTHCARE WORKPLACES

DESCRIPTION

Standards have been developed for healthcare facilities that take into consideration during construction planning, the prevention of hazards like infection control¹; however, there currently exists no similar standard to protect workers from the hazard of workplace violence when a healthcare workplace (such as a hospital, etc.) is being built or renovated as part of the architectural plan review process at the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC).

All architectural plans for health care workplaces should be reviewed from the lens of crime prevention, workplace violence prevention, and general safety. This would ensure all designs are modified to incorporate these principles prior to construction, resulting in reduced future renovation costs related to safety alterations and safer buildings and workers overall.

RECOMMENDED SOLUTION AND INTENDED OUTCOME

The MOHLTC should develop, with relevant government agencies, design standards that ensure all new or renovated space in healthcare workplaces are designed to protect workers from workplace violence. The standard should be created using a basis of knowledge of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design and/or CSA standards. A team of knowledgeable resources from crime prevention, healthcare workplaces, frontline staff, architects, and certified specialists could be developed to create the standard.

A review for workplace safety, including violence prevention, should be included in the planning design and review process at Infrastructure Ontario/MOHLTC for all healthcare workplaces (eg. hospitals) to ensure Project Specific Output Specifications (PSOS) documents include application of the new standard as a requirement for approval.

RECOMMENDED IMPLEMENTATION

SHORT

1. The members of the Leadership Table endorse the creation of a Workplace Safety Environmental Standard for Healthcare Workplaces.

MEDIUM

1. The Workplace Safety Environmental Standard for Healthcare Workplaces is created.

¹ CSA Z317.13 - Infection Control during Construction, Renovation, and Maintenance of Health Care Facilities

Workplace Violence Prevention in Health Care Leadership Table

LONG

1. All architectural designs are reviewed against this standard.