

Groundbreaker

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Jackie Jones WORKSAFELY™/COR™ Education and Training Lead

Prevention at core of Jones' passion for her work

BY HEATHER HUDSON



Whether she's developing new safety training courses, updating an existing one or teaching, Jackie Jones is passionate about prevention.

That's because she's seen firsthand how devastating a workplace injury can be.

When the WORKSAFELY™/COR™ Program Education and Training Advisor was 10 years old, her father almost lost his arm in a bin sweep accident on the family farm. In 1985, when the accident occurred, safety guarding was minimal to nonexistent around bin sweeps, which act as augers to help pull grain out of a granary.

"It was quite traumatic. He was in the hospital for a long time, during peak harvest season. The doctor saved his arm but there were a lot of injuries. It's probably one of the most traumatic experiences I can remember from my childhood," recounts Jones.

Today, the memory of the accident helps her remember the importance of the education WORKSAFELY™ provides to its members, particularly since the incident was entirely preventable.

Safe beginnings

Jones got her start in safety eight years ago when she took a job as an assistant to the Director of Prevention Services with Manitoba Workplace Safety and Health. She went on to become the Manager of Administrative Services and oversaw the LINK database that officers still use to keep track of the work they do in the field.

Though the work was rewarding, she decided to shift her focus from enforcement to prevention. When an opportunity for a safety advisor position with the Manitoba Heavy Construction Association (MHCA) arose, she jumped at the chance and joined the organization in January 2014.

"WORKSAFELY™ plays a supportive role in the heavy construction industry, providing our members with the tools they need to ensure compliance with the Workplace Safety and Health Regulations. This is where I wanted to be," Jones explains.

Tools for safety

One of the first challenges she took on was putting her regulatory background to work updating the education material to be sure they reflected regulatory changes.

It wasn't long before she was revamping several courses, including three COR™ programs: COR™ Leadership in Safety Excellence; COR™ Principles of Health and Safety Management; and COR™ Auditor.

Today, Jones is looking at implementing an e-learning platform and is in the midst of launching 2015's EXPO North in February.

"I like to be able to give our members all the tools they can possibly have, not only to comply with regulations, but to be safe," she explains. "It's important work to protect workers and their families."

Part of this was creating a series of WORKSAFELY™ Safety Talks focusing on Musculoskeletal Injury (MSI) Prevention for the heavy construction industry. This set a stage for WORKSAFELY™ Industry Best Practices for MSI Prevention, ensuring that COR™ members were equipped with tools to

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- Jackie Jones, WORKSAFELY™/ COR™ Education & Training Advisor

comply with Workplace Safety and Health Regulations.

Jones is keen on updating her skills and continually improving in her role. That’s why she is currently partaking in the Certificate in Adult and Continuing Education Program, through the University of Manitoba, which is having a positive effect on the training courses she’s updating for WORKSAFELY™.

“It’s interesting to see how I can implement what I’m learning into courses for our members. I’m learning about how adults learn and adding learning outcomes to our programs,” she says.

She’s also developing new courses that WORKSAFELY™ can offer in the future, including at EXPO North. One of the latest she’s

working on is Managing Fatigue, which is something that was requested by the committee made up of key stakeholders.

“I’m working with a doctor in Alberta who specializes in managing fatigue. I will be taking his course in November and then working closely with him, researching and compiling information to create the best possible fatigue management course relevant to the heavy construction industry,” explains Jones.

Some of the courses she’s taught recently have been Working Alone, Worker Orientation (which are two courses about to be combined), Safety Talks and Ergonomics and MSI Prevention.


Outside of the office, Jones is the busy mother of a 15-year-old daughter, 11-year-old


son, 16-year-old stepson and 14-year-old step-daughter. With each of the kids in their own extracurricular activities, weeknights are busy for the family.

Jones says they unwind on weekends at the cottage they purchased this summer in Falcon Lake.

“When we have our free moments we’re at the cabin, boating, hiking and enjoying being outside,” she says.

Family pictures adorn her office, reminding her about the importance of safety for workers and their loved ones.

“I like that MHCA has given me the ability to grow as a safety advisor,” says Jones. “Working in a fast-paced office with a great team is a great experience and we achieve a lot.” 



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