

Action taken to date by the Ottawa Catholic School Board after the death of Eric Leighton

14.03 - April 3, 2014 - Ottawa - With guidance from the Ministry of Labour, the Ottawa Catholic School Board reviewed all safety procedures in its schools related to technology projects and "hot work." As the Coroner's Inquest completes its work and submits its comprehensive recommendations, the following procedures have been implemented in Ottawa Catholic School Board schools to ensure the safety of the students in our schools:

- All proposed student projects for transportation, construction and manufacturing technology classrooms are submitted as a Project Plan and are reviewed by a team of educators to ensure a safe, clear process is in place for each step of the project, including risk assessment, student safety training, machinery and tools used and materials. The proposed project is presented to the school Principal for review and approval.
- A Hot Work Permit Program is in place. All hot work by students for welding, cutting and grinding requires the completion of a Hot Work Permit. The permit outlines the equipment and materials to be used and ensures that the student(s) have completed the appropriate safety training for the project. The work cannot commence before the teacher reviews the work area, equipment and materials with the student and signs the Hot Work Permit at the work location.
- Technological Education Safety Guidelines are in place that includes occupational health and safety information, staff and student safety training requirements, procurement of materials information and emergency contact information. Ongoing specialized training is provided to teachers in group meetings and/or classroom settings.
- All materials used for technological classroom projects must be purchased from an approved industry vendor or supplier.
- All relevant safety documents and external safety audits for individual high school are required reading for the school Principal, Vice Principals, subject Department heads and subject teachers.

The Ottawa Catholic School Board remains devoted to the success of each and every one of our students. We strive to be education sector leaders in school safety, complying with all Ministry of Labour and Ministry of Education guidelines and directives as well as respecting the recommendation of the Coroner's Inquest.

For more information, please call Mardi de Kemp, Manager of Communications, Ottawa Catholic School Board. 613-224-4455 ext. 2326 or mobile: 613-294-3946.