



Office of the
Chief Coroner
Bureau du
coroner en chef

Verdict of Coroner's Jury Verdict du jury du coroner

The Coroners Act – Province of Ontario
Loi sur les coroners – Province de l'Ontario

Inquest Into the death of:
Enquête sur le décès de :

Eric Leighton

JURY RECOMMENDATIONS RECOMMANDATIONS DU JURY

To the School Boards in Ontario

- 1) Each school board in Ontario should maintain a list of approved student projects for high school technology classes. Each project, and any new proposed project, must be assessed, using a formalized method to ensure it meets curriculum and safety requirements.
 - a. This method should ensure that teaching objectives and student engagement are promoted, but that higher risk projects are flagged and screened to ensure a clear, safe process is in place from start to finish of a project. As technological education is important in a high school setting, implementation of safe practice procedures should not deter the development of innovative technological programs and projects for high school students.
 - b. The process used by the Ottawa Catholic School Board (OCSB) may be used as a template, or the OCTE (Ontario Council for Technology Education) SafetyNET template.
 - c. This list should include a design plan, safety concerns, and suggested materials.
 - d. This list would not be for student use, as they must conduct their own research. It should be an additional resource to technology teachers.
- 2) All school boards should establish Safety Guidelines for High School Technological courses, and may consider using the Ottawa Catholic School Board "Technological Education Safety Guidelines" as a template. These guidelines should be stored in one place. This should be a living document, with a responsible administrator tasked with its renewal on a regular basis, and be obligatory annual reading for all technology teachers, principals, superintendents, and Directors of Education. This would include checklists, records, definitions, responsibilities, project plans, and emergency contacts. Such Guidelines should be established in consultation with technology teachers and OCTE (Ontario Council for Technology Education).

Procurement of equipment or materials by teachers for projects in technology classes must have oversight and a system in place for used equipment purchase to ensure a safety check has occurred. All materials from approved providers must go through the purchasing department, and donated materials must be approved by central Board staff and coordinated with existing maintenance and repair audits and programs.
- 3) Safety Passports for tools and equipment, based on OCTE (Ontario Council for Technology Education) SAFE documents, should be obtained by a student before the student is allowed any access to that tool or equipment.
- 4) Consideration should be given to not allowing any hot work on closed containers in high school technical shops. A definition of a closed container should be clearly understood by students, teachers and school administrators.
- 5) If hot work on closed containers continues in high school technical shops, the project and its plan should be vetted by a project approval process and consideration given to having a qualified hot work instructor present to directly supervise the project.
- 6) A hot work permit system, such as that in place for the Ottawa Catholic School Board, should be in place for any project involving welding, grinding, or other procedures which could be defined as hot work.
- 7) School Boards should ensure the information contained in the Ministry of Labour Engineer Data Sheet 4-14 (or any updated version) is included and is cited in teaching material for hot work.
 - a. This should apply to training for both teachers and students before hot work is performed in a high school technical shop.
 - b. The basic rule from the Engineering Data Sheet 4-14 should be specifically cited: "Never assume that a container is clean and safe. Make sure that it is made safe, and that this is verified by testing".

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Handwritten signatures and initials.
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- 8) Each high school technology facility should be inspected annually by an independent occupational health and safety expert in the presence of the teacher responsible for that area.
- The results and any recommendations from this inspection should be submitted to the Principal, the Joint Health and Safety committees of the school board and the Director of Education for the school board, or his or her designate.
 - A record of the recommendations and their implementation, including reasons for non-implementation, should be reviewed by the Joint Health and Safety Committee.
 - This information should be shared with the Director of Education or his or her designate, Superintendents of Education, principals, teachers of technical education and the Ministry of Education.
- 9) Each school board should post results of its annual independent inspection and any Ministry of Labour orders (subject to applicable privacy legislation) on its public website.
- 10) Before commencing teaching, all new technology teachers must be trained in the Technological Safety Guidelines for their respective school board. Principals must ensure that all technology education teachers have completed the appropriate safety training, and this information should be reported to the Joint Health and Safety Committee as well as the Director of Education or his or her designate. JHSC (Joint Health and Safety Committee) (or principal, or health and safety officer for the board) must regularly evaluate and track the safety training of all staff. A system must be in place to monitor that this has taken place, including reporting to the Ministry of Education. Training should be available on an on-going basis.
- 11) At least one board-wide working day (or professional development day) per year should be designated to address safety in high school technology facilities. This should involve technology teachers, technology department heads, principals and vice-principals. The Ministry of Education should be informed of the completion of these programs.
- 12) The CODE (Council of Ontario Directors of Education) documents "Student Safety in Secondary Technological Education Grades 9 to 12: a resource for school administrators" and "Student Safety: a guide for supervisory officers, principals and vice-principals", or their updated version, should be required reading for all principals, vice-principals, technology department heads, superintendents of education and directors of education at this time and at any time a new person enters any of these positions. Confirmation that these documents have been read and understood should be recorded.
- 13) Worker members of joint health and safety committees and school Principals should receive mandatory training with respect to inspections of high risk areas including technological shops.
- 14) School Boards should do their utmost to hire properly certified teachers for their technology programs. The use of the "Letters of Permission" to hire staff should only be used in exceptional circumstances.

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To the Ministry of Education

15) Funding to maintain templates and resources for best practices for the management of health and safety practices in schools should be maintained by the Ministry of Education, in collaboration with safety partners such as CODE (Council of Ontario Directors of Education) and OCTE (Ontario Council for Technology Education).

16) The Ministry of Education should continue working with OCTE (Ontario Council for Technology Education), CODE (Council of Ontario Directors of Education), MOL (Ministry of Labour) and others to ensure there are well developed, current curriculum aids to technology teachers in Ontario, easily accessible and without cost to an individual teacher.

To the Ontario Council for Technology Education (OCTE)

17) OCTE (Ontario Council for Technology Education) should continue to maintain a health and safety website, accessible to all school boards, for collecting best management practices, student safety materials, resources, activities, plans, policies and vetted projects related to safety in secondary school technology programs.

18) OCTE (Ontario Council for Technology Education) should create a database of projects appropriate for the technology curriculum so there is a provincial repository of safe, approved projects.

19) OCTE (Ontario Council for Technology Education) should consider mentioning in the SAFEdoc documents and tool summaries related to welding, grinders or other equipment that may be used in hot work, the risks related to working with containers. This should address the risks posed by flammable vapours and the need to verify container contents thoroughly, beyond the contents listed on the labelling. A mention that hot work is high risk and requires specialized expertise is recommended.

To the Ministry of Labour

20) The publication "Live Safe! Work Smart!" should be formally renewed and aligned with the Ministry of Education curriculum for technological education on a regular, ongoing basis. In addition to consultation with the Ministry of Education during curriculum development, this program, or a similar one, should be modified and updated to keep it a part of the continuous renewal of the curriculum, as an aid to teachers, principals and school boards.

21) The Ministry of Labour should work with partners and stakeholders to lead the development and implementation of an integrated health and safety strategy to raise awareness of, and compliance with, health and safety in schools. This initiative should include further inspections of Ontario schools in 2015 and 2016. As with the previous initiatives, the results should be made public.

To the Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities

22) Consider developing an additional qualifications course in Health and Safety for teachers, to provide an incentive to increase expertise within the education sector.

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