

We Need Your Help: The Prevention of MSDs in Construction and Transportation

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Issue: Both the construction and transportation sectors have very high rates of MSDs, combined with high WSIB costs, and increasing medical burden. Both sectors are under researched area with little work having been done in musculoskeletal disorders, or in innovative solutions to reduce or prevent these problems. Focus groups with driver-trainers, and key-informant interviews were done in transportation. Focus groups with manager-union groups and three key informant interviews were conducted in construction. Questions were asked on what participants thought would be barriers and facilitators to making changes to reduce MSDs in their sector What does “ergonomics” mean to them? Which sub-sector is most affected by MSDs? What are the jobs that they think are the most harmful to workers’ health (pain, disability)? What makes these jobs the most problematic? What ergonomic changes do they think are possible? What makes it tough to introduce a new tool, piece of equipment or way of doing work? What would help organizations make ergonomic changes? (e.g. would having access to an ergonomist be helpful?) What would they consider to be the most important question when it comes to addressing ergonomic problems?

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