

**for immediate release  
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## **RESOURCES AIM TO REDUCE IMMIGRANT INJURY NUMBERS**

### **Manitoba Immigrants' Safety Initiative targets workers, employers on road to safety**

**WINNIPEG** – Workplaces across the Winnipeg region now have the tools to help all workers finish their day safely.

A new set of resources from the Manitoba Immigrants' Safety Initiative is bridging the cultural gap between employers and new and existing immigrants to the province by creating a new culture – the safety culture.

The resources, launched today in Steinbach, promise to help employers understand their immigrant employees while at the same time helping new Manitobans understand their role in workplace safety.

“This project has been a dream of MISI for quite some time,” says Mike Waite, President and CEO of Safety Services Manitoba – the driving force behind MISI. “It is the product of a number of organizations who believe EVERY Manitoban deserves to work safely – no matter the cultural background, language or skill level.”

Safety Services Manitoba partners with the International Centre to support MISI, along with contributions from the Workers Compensation Board of Manitoba, Manitoba Workplace Safety and Health Division and corporate sponsors Manitoba Lotteries Corporation, Manitoba Liquor Control Commission and Manitoba Hydro.

“If these resources – the manuals, the guide books and the rights and responsibilities toolkits – help reduce the number of injuries suffered by immigrant workers in any way, we will have done our collective jobs,” says Waite.

Currently, immigrant workers in Manitoba are two times more likely to suffer a workplace injury than their Canadian-born counterparts.

Manitoba saw nearly 11,000 immigrants in 2007.

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The Manitoba Immigrants' Safety Initiative is coordinated by Safety Services Manitoba and the International Centre of Winnipeg, with generous support from a number of project sponsors. The initiative is also funded through the WCB Community Initiatives and Research Program with an aim to prevent injury, death and workplace-related illness in new and existing immigrant workers in Manitoba.

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**MANITOBA IMMIGRANTS' SAFETY INITIATIVE**