Outdoor workers have a higher risk of skin cancer and heat stress. Occupational sun exposure is a significant risk factor. There are between 1.5 million \(^1\) and 5.4 million outdoor workers \(^2\) in Canada. Although the need for sun and heat protection has been identified, there is no Canada-wide heat and sun safety program for outdoor workers.

The objective of Sun at Work is to develop nationally-applicable heat and sun safety processes and resources for workplaces to help them implement heat and sun safety programs for outdoor workers.

### Background & Objective

Outdoor workers have a higher risk of skin cancer and heat stress. Occupational sun exposure is a significant risk factor. There are between 1.5 million \(^1\) and 5.4 million outdoor workers \(^2\) in Canada. Although the need for sun and heat protection has been identified, there is no Canada-wide heat and sun safety program for outdoor workers.

### Design

**Phase I—Workplaces**

Develop, implement, and evaluate theoretically-driven and evidence-based heat and sun safety (HSS) interventions that build capacity for HSS in 12 farms and utilities workplaces in three regions in Canada (BC, ON, NS/MB). Along with existing evidence-based research, the 3-point evaluation will enter Phase II.

**Phase II—Broader Reach**

Develop website-hosted tools and resources to help outdoor workplace implement HSS programs. Raise awareness of the need for HSS programs for outdoor workplaces. Communicate through engagement with workplaces, industry decision makers, and policy advocates. The website includes:

- Interactive heat stress tool with staged resources
- Project reports
- Summaries of HSS effective prevention strategies
- Policy briefing notes
- Videos about worker and employer experiences with HSS

### References

3. Adapted from Harris, R., Dogan, M., Hanson, P.A., Forehand, M., Luchick, R., Martin, J., Terraz, J. (2013). A Framework for Disseminating Evidence-Based Health Promotion Practices. Preventing Chronic Disease, 10(2).

### Acknowledgements

This study is made possible through financial support from the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer and Health Canada. Ethical approval for the study was received from the Community Research Ethics Office in Waterloo, Ontario.

### Dissemination & Knowledge Transfer Framework

**Phase I**

- **Workplace-based Skin Cancer and Heat Stress Prevention Project:**
  - Project Coordinating Team: Project Staff
  - Community Partnerships: Stakeholder Advisory Board
  - Social media plan/principle of knowledge exchange
  - Social media plan - content & format of knowledge exchange
  - Social media plan—how to reach stakeholders
  - Social media plan—how to evaluate
  - Social media plan—how to use social media

**Phase II**

- **Health and Safety Committee**
  - Stakeholder Advisory Board: Stakeholder Advisory Board
  - Community Partnerships: Stakeholder Advisory Board
  - Social media plan—how to reach stakeholders
  - Social media plan—how to evaluate

**Shortlisted Outcomes**

- Enhanced education, training, and awareness
- Enhanced promotion and marketing of prevention strategies
- Increased awareness, skill, and knowledge among stakeholders
- Increased understanding and adoption of heat stress and sun safety interventions
- Change in behaviour to reduce risk of heat stress
- Change in knowledge of the importance of heat stress and sun safety

### Sun at Work Team

Sun at Work is a CPAC Coalition Linking Action & Science for Prevention project.

Ryerson University: Thomas Tenkate, Peter Straiflendorf

Occupational Cancer Research Centre: Desire Kramer

Sun Safe Nova Scotia: Peter Green, Judy Purcell, Brenda Marsh (also Occupational Health Nurses Association of Nova Scotia), Kelly Call (also Canadian Society for Cancer Nova Scotia)

Save Your Skin Foundation: Kathy Barnard

Alberta Health Services: Steve Quaniz

Centre for Research Expertise in Occupational Disease: Dorothy Linn Holness

CAREX Canada: Cheryl Peters

Staff: Audrey Gardner; Leah Byrne; Lindsay Forster-Phillips; Julia Haoy; Rivka Kushner; Sarah MacPherson; Keith McMillan

Audrey Gardner | Project Coordinator | audition.gardner@ryerson.ca