



**Tuesday, March 5, 2024**

## **News Release: New Tools Help Keep Care Providers Safe, Healthy, and Caring for Nova Scotians**

**Halifax, N.S.** Leaders in the long-term care, home care and disability support sectors have more tools to help them keep care providers safe as they do the important work of caring for others. A new [Leader Safety Playbook](#) recently launched by [AWARE-NS](#) is a comprehensive resource developed for leaders, by leaders to equip them on their journey in safety leadership. Through the continued introduction of supports and resources based on evolving sector requirements, this sustainable and scalable tool is designed to meet leaders' needs now, and in the future.

More than 22,000 Nova Scotians work in these sectors, which have been steadily making progress when it comes to improving safety and keeping care providers healthy and at work, thanks to a partnership between industry and government.

The Leader Safety Playbook is part of a growing list of supports that are helping leaders build and maintain better workplace safety programs for their employees and support their safe and timely return to work.

“This is another powerful health and safety tool that will make a huge difference,” says Dawn Pickering, the new Executive Director at AWARE-NS, the safety association that’s working toward improving safety outcomes in the long-term care, home care, and disability support program sectors — along with the Departments of Community Services, Seniors and Long-Term Care, and Labour, Skills and Immigration, and WCB Nova Scotia. “We believe that safe and healthy workplaces are the foundation for care providers to do the critical work of supporting safe, healthy, and happy Nova Scotians.”

This is also the theme of a new awareness campaign, *Better Safety, Better Care*, which launched in February through a collaboration between government, WCB Nova Scotia, and AWARE-NS. The campaign emphasizes the critical connection between the safety of workers in the home care and long-term care sectors and their ability to provide safe and healthy care to clients and residents. It features personal stories from care providers and receivers on the importance of building a *safety-for-all* culture in these sectors.

To learn more about the *Better Safety, Better Care* awareness campaign, visit [safecareconnection.ca](http://safecareconnection.ca).



127 Chain Lake Drive, Unit 9  
Halifax, NS B3S 1B3  
902.832.3868  
www.awarens.ca

---

## **Quotes**

“WCB Nova Scotia is proud to partner with AWARE-NS and government to reduce injuries and improve safe and timely return to work in these important health care and disability support program sectors. The launch of the Playbook and campaign, and the improvements in safety practices they represent align with our mission to ensure the physical and psychological health and wellbeing of workers across Nova Scotia. By working together, we can create environments where employees feel supported, injuries are minimized, and care can be provided to those who need it most, safely and with confidence and compassion.”

- **Karen Adams, CEO, WCB Nova Scotia**

“Our government is committed to supporting the dedicated people who work in continuing care and disability support program sectors to stay safe and healthy, so they can provide the care and support that so many count on. We are happy to work with our partners at AWARE-NS and WCB to continue this important work and foster a culture of workplace safety among workers, employers, long-term care residents, home care clients, persons with disabilities, and their loved ones.”

- **Barbara Adams, Minister of Seniors and Long-Term Care**

---

## **About AWARE-NS**

AWARE-NS is a Nova Scotia association made up of health and community services workers. Our mission is to promote a culture of workplace safety in this sector, which includes care providers from many professions who work with patients and clients in settings such as hospitals, clinics, private homes, convalescent homes, continuing care facilities, and group homes – to mention just a few. AWARE-NS was established in the spring of 2009 with our official launch in March 2010. We were established because of a growing concern about workplace health and safety in our sector.

People who work in community services and health care in the province have a greater risk of physical and psychological workplace injuries than workers in any other field. AWARE-NS was formed out of concern for our occupational health and safety – and, as an extension of this, our ability to provide Nova Scotians with the best services possible. It is a means of affecting change and taking responsibility for our health and well-being. <https://awarens.ca/>