

BILL 47 AND JOINT HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEES

Role of Joint Health and Safety Committees

One of the most important battles Alberta workers have won is the right to be involved in the workplace decisions that impact our safety. This generally takes the form of a joint health and safety committee with equal representation from workers and the employer.

After all, if strong health and safety provisions are not in place and enforced by the employer, it is workers who are in danger. Too many workplace fatalities could have been prevented with more proactive planning with direct input from workers on the job.

What is being taken away from you?

Alberta Bill 47 proposes radical changes to the workplace health and safety laws, including the thousands of joint health and safety committees (JHSCs) across the province. Here is a summary of those changes:

Before Bill 47	After Bill 47
All employers and worksites with more than 20 employees must have a JHSC	Many worksites with more than 20 workers exempted from JHSC requirement
Mandatory committee member training	No training requirements
Workers select their representatives	Unclear how worker representatives are selected
JHSC involved at every stage of prevention	Limited JHSC involvement and roles

What's next?

This factsheet only describes some of the changes in Bill 47. We will be providing more information on these issues and others regularly over the next few months. On top of the radical changes to local union administration passed in Bill 32, Bill 47 is another government attack on our rights at work. Visit unifor.org/alberta to learn more.

