



## Translating the law - using plain language

The law can be difficult to understand. To help us understand it, sometimes the “legalese” (words and phrases) need to be translated into plain language. Committee members and reps need to be able to do this, for themselves and others.

To start practising, we will use the main part of the law, the *Workplace Safety and Health Act*. The official words are on the left below. On the right is our “translation”. There is space below for you to make your own version.

### The Act says

PURPOSE OF THIS ACT

General objects and purposes

2(1) The objects and purposes of this Act are

- (a) to secure workers and self-employed persons from risks to their safety, health and welfare arising out of, or in connection with, activities in their workplaces; and
- (b) to protect other persons from risks to their safety and health arising out of, or in connection with, activities in workplaces.

### One translation is..

Purpose of this law

General goals

The goals of this law are to:

- make sure that workers and self-employed people don't face work-related hazards whether they are safety, health and welfare issues
- protect other people (e.g. clients, patients, the public) from work-related safety and health hazards

### Our translation is:

(continued on the next page)

The authors' wording presented above does not replace the Province of Manitoba's legislated Act and Regulations. The official versions can be found on-line at <http://www.gov.mb.ca/labour/safety/actregnew.html> or by contacting the Manitoba Workplace Safety and Health Division office.



## The Act says

Specific objects and purposes

2(2) Without limiting the generality of subsection (1), the objects and purposes of this Act include

- (a) the promotion and maintenance of the highest degree of physical, mental and social well-being of workers;
- (b) the prevention among workers of ill health caused by their working conditions;
- (c) the protection of workers in their employment from factors promoting ill health; and
- (d) the placing and maintenance of workers in an occupational environment adapted to their physiological and psychological condition.

## One translation is..

Specific goals of this law

Without limiting the general idea, the goals of this law also are to:

- promote all aspects of workers' health and keep workers healthy and happy
- prevent workers getting sick because of their jobs
- protect workers from all hazards on the job
- adapt the workplace to workers' mental and physical needs (i.e. use ergonomic principles)

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