

## National Standard for Psychological Health and Safety in the Workplace:



Presenter:
Andrew Harkness,
Strategy Advisor, Organizational Health Initiatives
Workplace Safety & Prevention Services

### One in **Five**

- One in 5 Canadians will experience a mental problem or illness in any given year.
- On any given week, at least 500,000 employed
   Canadians are unable to work due to mental illness."
- Every year mental illnesses costs the Canadian economy an estimated \$51 billion (at least) annually in absenteeism, disability claims, and medical services used.



## Why is Mental Health a Workplace Issue?

- Risk Management
- Cost Effectiveness
- Safety
- Legal

- Recruitment & Retention
- Organizational Excellence & Sustainability
- Productivity
- Shareholder Return

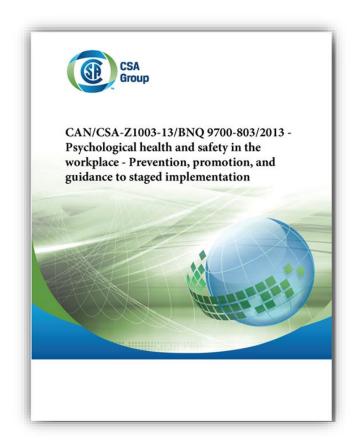




### **Psychological Health and Safety Standard**

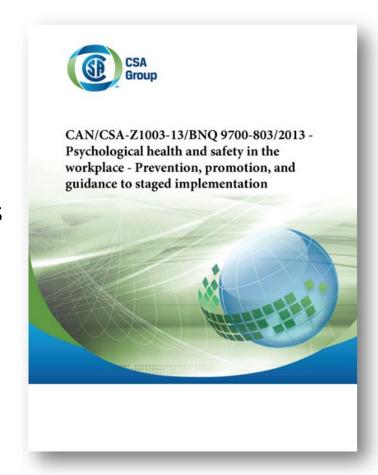
"It's time to start thinking about mental wellbeing in the same way as we consider physical wellbeing, and the Standard offers the framework needed to help make this happen in the workplace."

> Louise Bradley, President & CEO, Mental Health Commission of Canada



## **Psychological Health and Safety Standard**

- Provides a framework for addressing mental injury and harm prevention
- First in the world
- Voluntary standard is available free
- Focuses on workplace practices & processes not individual health issues
- Tailored to the needs & existing resources of each workplace
- Developed by employer/worker/regulator and subject matter stakeholders
- 35,000 downloads and counting!



## Psychologically Safe Workplace

 Every reasonable effort is made to PROTECT the mental health of workers
 and

• Every reasonable effort is made to **PROMOTE** the mental health of workers.

 Allows NO HARM to worker mental health in negligent, reckless or intentional ways.



## The Standard – Guiding Principles

- Shared responsibility and active participation among all workplace stakeholders
- Demonstrated and visible commitment from senior management
- Integrate PHS into organizational decision making
- Focus on health, safety, awareness and promotion



## The National Standard

- A planned approach to address workplace factors known to impact psychological health.
- Provides a framework to create and continually improve a psychologically healthy and safe workplace.
- Follows OHS management system format
- Voluntary
- Right now you can get a free copy



### **Collaboration of Thoughts and Models**

#### The CSA Z1000 Model





#### **PLAN**

- Commitment, leadership, participation, confidentiality
- Planning
  - Planning process
  - Review
  - Identification, assessment and control
  - Data collection
  - Diversity
  - Objectives and targets
  - Managing change



#### **DO (Implementation)**

- Infrastructure and resources
- Preventive and protective measures
- Education, awareness and communication
- Sponsorship, engagement and change management
- Implementation governance
- Competence and training
- Critical event preparedness
- Reporting and investigations
- External parties





#### **CHECK**

- Monitoring and measurement
- Internal audits
- Preventive and corrective actions





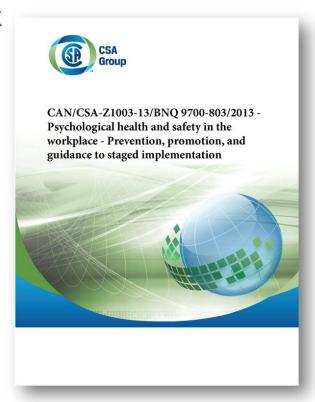
#### **ACT**

- Review process
- Outcome of the review process



### Informative Annexes in the Standard

- Supplemental Background & Context
- Resources for Building a PHS Framework
- Sample Implementation Models
- Case Studies
- Sample Audit Tool
- Discussion of Relevant Legislation or Regulation as of Sept 2011
- Related Standards & Guides
- Informative References





## Thirteen Workplace Factors

Organizational Culture

Psychological & Social Support

Clear Leadership & Expectations

Civility & Respect

Psychological Demands

Growth & Development

Recognition & Reward

Involvement & Influence

Workload Management

Engagement

Balance

Psychological Protection

Protection of Physical Safety



## Assembling the Pieces Implementation Guide

## CSA Group Resource to Support CSA Z1003 Implementation



# GuardincMinds @ work

#### **ASSESSMENT**

- → Initial Scan
- → Employer Audit
- → PSR-13 Employee Survey

#### **ACTION**

- → Risk Report Card
- → Action Responses
- → Action Planning Worksheet

#### **EVALUATION**

→ Evaluation Planning
Worksheet



## Psychological Support – Stigma What Can You Do?

#### Co-Worker /Supervisor

- Put the person ahead of the illness
- Learn the facts
- Speak with dignity and respect
- Speak up
- Support your co-workers

- Educate and inform
- Foster a healthy workplace environment
- Strengthen leader's skills
- Start at the top
- Promote accessibility
- Foster a "help-seeking"



## Psychological Support – Training & Development What Can You Do?

#### **Co-Worker / Supervisor**

- Learn the facts,
   participate in training
- Learn about your benefit and support programs
- Ask and learn how to support your co-workers

- Build mental health literacy
- Focus on leader training
- Peer support programs
- Review your providers services
- Review your programs



## Psychological Support – Communication What Can You Do?

#### **Co-Worker / Supervisor**

- Speak with dignity and respect
- Talk about mental health
- Use proper terminology
- Share your information

- Communicate!
- Openly discuss mental health
- Find a champion
- Share online resources
- Provide access to risk assessments
- Talk about your benefit program



## Psychological Support – RTW What Can You Do?

#### **Co-Worker / Supervisor**

- Set an example for the rest of the staff
- Show how much you respect, value and trust the returning employee
- Don't make assumptions,
- Include the worker in watercooler talk
- Ask what your co-worker needs

- Encourage early RTW if possible
- Meet with the employee before the RTW date
- Address back to work fears
- Suggest a mid week start date and a gradual RTW
- Ask what the employee needs
- External facilitator for RTW



## Psychological Support – Resilience What Can You Do?

#### Co-Worker / Supervisor

- Understand the importance of mental health
- Be optimistic and supportive
- Trust your judgment
- Keep perspective
- Be responsive
- Know your stress triggers
- Take care of yourself

- Mental health infrastructure
  - Awareness & communication
  - Enhance access to behavioural health services and benefits
  - RTW & accommodation
  - Screening tools
  - Conflict resolution
- Don't forget middle management



## Implementation – A Journey

- 1. Take baseline measurement
- 2. Give credit for what is in place
- 3. Identify workplace specific hazards, risks & controls
- 4. Develop a process for moving forward
- 5. Integrate best practices with existing systems & processes
- Equip workplace leaders with knowledge, tools & resources to help workers
- 7. Connect with community resources
- 8. Self-declare conformance to the National Standard



## **In Summary**

- The Standard is voluntary good practice for organizations & leaders seeking solid guidance
- The Standard provides necessary guidance to establish & maintain an effective psychological health & safety system
- Implementation will be a journey
- Numerous resources are available to help



## Get Your Copy of The Standard

- Standard will be offered at no cost for the first 5 years
- Standard available from BNQ and CSA:

BNQ (<u>www.bnq.qc.ca</u>) and CSA (<u>www.csa.ca</u>)



## Questions

