



## NIAGARA SAFETY AWARENESS DAY

Merit hosted Niagara Safety Awareness Day in conjunction with the North American Occupational Health & Safety Week (May 1-7). The goal of Safety Week is to focus employers, employees, partners and the public on the importance of preventing injury and illness in the workplace, at home and in the community.

The open house event took place at the NCA on May 4<sup>th</sup> and featured industry experts and safety vendors. Congratulations to the Merit staff members who won door prizes. As well as those who received their Fire Suppression Certification at the event.

A special thanks to all vendors who partnered with us; Niagara Construction Association (NCA), Infrastructure Health & Safety Association (IHSA), St. John's Ambulance, Vallen, Welland Canal Fallen Workers Memorial, and International Sew-Right (ISR).



## MINISTRY OF LABOUR – SPRING/SUMMER BLITZ

May 2016

Inspectors from the Ministry will be targeting hazards putting workers at risk of falling at workplaces from May 16 – July 15. During the blitz inspectors will be taking a *zero tolerance* approach to contraventions.

Falls are major hazards for workers in the construction sector where they remain the number one cause of critical injuries and fatalities. It is estimated that 65% of falls take place at the same level (slips, trips, falls), not from heights.

Workers can be at increased risk of falling due to;

- Missing protective devices (e.g. guardrails)
- Suitability and maintenance of guardrails and covers
- Unguarded openings in floors, work surfaces or walls of buildings or other structures including skylights in existing roof structures



- Lack of appropriate personal protective equipment
- Equipment that is misused or in poor condition
- Poor work practices - unclear job procedures, lack of training, workers rushing to meet deadlines
- Poor lighting
- Slippery surfaces
- Inadequate “housekeeping” - cluttered work areas, etc.

*A reminder to all Merit staff, if you or your team have not yet received a new safety vest, please contact Head Office.*