



## New Mandatory Working at Heights Training

by Maria Kotsopoulos  
Originally published in *Employment Update* (April 2015)



Maria Kotsopoulos is a Partner at Blaney McMurtry and a member of the Employment and Labour Group. Maria practices in all areas of labour, employment and human rights law. She advocates on behalf of employers, not for profit organizations, trade unions, and employees, and has been involved in matters before the Superior Court of Justice, the Federal Court, the Labour Board, the Human Rights Tribunal, the Workplace Safety and Insurance Appeals Tribunal, and other tribunals.

Maria can be reached directly at 416.593.2987 or [mkotsopoulos@blaney.com](mailto:mkotsopoulos@blaney.com).

---

On April 1, 2015, mandatory working at heights training came into effect under the Occupational Health and Safety Awareness Training Regulation of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* for workers on construction sites using any of the following methods of fall protection:

- Travel restraint systems;
- Fall restricting systems;
- Fall arrest systems;
- Safety nets; and
- Work belts or safety belts.

The Regulation now requires employers to ensure the completion of a working at heights training program by these employees.

The working at heights training program must be one that is approved by the Chief Prevention Officer. It must also be delivered by an approved training provider before workers can work at heights.

Workers who, prior to April 1, 2015, met the fall protection training requirements in subsection 26.2(1) of the Construction Projects Regulation under the OHS Act will have a period of two years to complete an approved working at heights program. Accordingly, these workers will have until April 1, 2017, to complete this new mandatory training in addition to the training requirements of the Construction Projects Regulation. ■