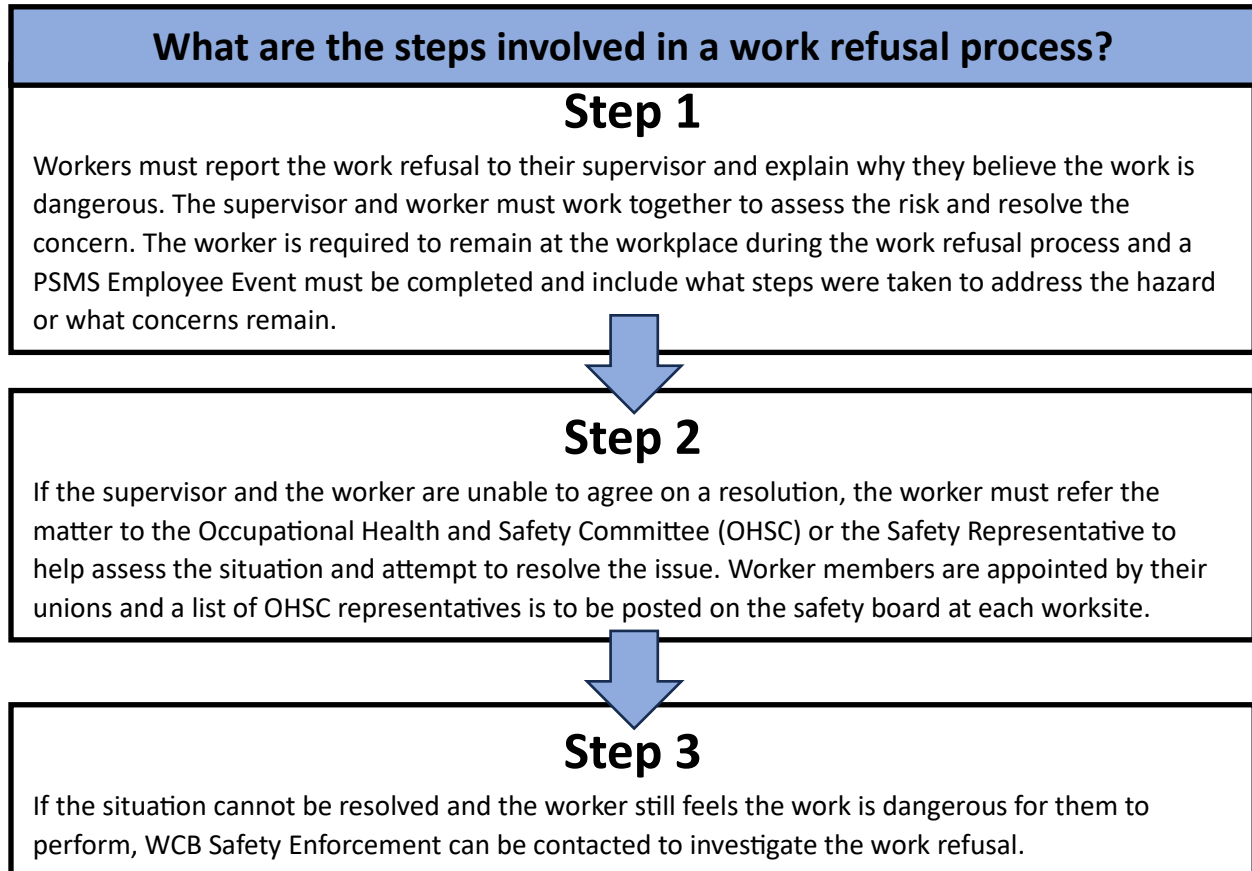


# The Right to Refuse Unsafe Work

Health PEI is committed to a safe working environment for all healthcare workers and supports our workers' rights under the Occupational Health & Safety Act. Section 28 of the Prince Edward Island *Occupational Health and Safety Act*, provides workers with the right to refuse work that they reasonably believe will cause a danger to their health and safety, or that of another person, should they perform the task. The [Safety, Compliance & Violence Prevention Team](#) are available to address any question, concerns or for consultation regarding worker's rights to refuse unsafe work.



## Are there exceptions to the right to refuse unsafe work?

Yes, there are generally two exceptions to the right to refuse unsafe work. First, dangers or hazards which are inherent to the worker's work, or which are normal conditions of the worker's employment will generally not give rise to a right of refusal.

Second, when the refusal to work would directly endanger the life, health or safety of another person, the worker is usually prohibited from exercising their right to refuse unsafe work. These two exceptions could include, for example, police officers, firefighters, and health care workers with regards to certain dangers or certain situations.

## References:

*Occupational Health and Safety Act* (S) 46 R.S.P.E.I. 1988, Cap. O-1.01

WCB OHS *Guide Work Refusal*

Canadian Centre for Occupational Health & Safety (CCOHS) *Health & Safety Legislation in Canada*