


2023




## **TEW - Defensive Driving Policy**

**Based on The Ontario Highway Traffic Act**

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As the president of this organization, I feel it is important to address the issue of defensive driving and its significance in ensuring the safety of our employees and the public. In accordance with the Ontario Highway Traffic Act, it is mandatory for all drivers to follow defensive driving practices while operating a motor vehicle on public roads.

Defensive driving is not just a legal obligation, but a moral responsibility that we owe to ourselves and others around us. It involves being alert, vigilant, and proactive while driving, and anticipating potential hazards that may arise on the road. This includes driving at a safe speed, maintaining a safe distance from other vehicles, checking blind spots, and avoiding distractions such as cell phones and other electronic devices.

Furthermore, defensive driving also requires understanding and following the rules of the road as set out in the Ontario Highway Traffic Act. This includes knowing the right-of-way rules, obeying traffic signals and signs, and using turn signals when changing lanes or making turns.

It is important to note that defensive driving is not just for new drivers or those with little experience on the road. Even the most experienced and skilled drivers can benefit from practicing defensive driving, as it helps to reduce the risk of accidents and ensure the safety of everyone on the road.

As an organization, we have a duty of care to ensure the safety of our employees while they are driving for work-related purposes. This means providing training and resources on defensive driving practices, encouraging our employees to take breaks when feeling fatigued, and ensuring that our vehicles are regularly maintained and inspected.

In conclusion, defensive driving is a critical aspect of road safety, and we all have a responsibility to follow these practices. By being proactive and vigilant while driving, we can help to prevent accidents and ensure the safety of everyone on the road. Let us all commit to being responsible and defensive drivers, both on and off the job.

Sincerely,

X Joseph DeCaria

President

Joe DeCaria

## 1.0 Respect & Dignity Policy

### 1.1 Purpose

This policy is designed to promote safe driving practices and reduce the risk of accidents on the road by ensuring that all employees who operate vehicles on behalf of the organization adhere to the standards of defensive driving as outlined in the Ontario Highway Traffic Act.

### 1.2 Scope

This policy applies to all employees who operate vehicles on behalf of the organization, whether they are driving a company-owned vehicle or their own personal vehicle while conducting organization-related business.

### 1.3 Policy Statement

The organization is committed to promoting defensive driving practices to reduce the risk of accidents on the road. We recognize the importance of complying with the Ontario Highway Traffic Act and ensuring the safety of all individuals on the road.

### 1.4 Responsibilities

All employees who operate vehicles on behalf of the organization are responsible for adhering to the standards of defensive driving as outlined in this policy. Managers and supervisors are responsible for promoting and enforcing this policy, and for taking appropriate corrective action when necessary.

### 1.5 Standards of Defensive Driving

All employees who operate vehicles on behalf of the organization must adhere to the following standards of defensive driving:

- Observe and obey all traffic laws, regulations, and signs.
- Maintain a safe distance from other vehicles, particularly in adverse weather conditions.
- Avoid distractions while driving, including using electronic devices and eating or drinking.
- Adjust their driving to road and weather conditions.
- Use turn signals to indicate their intentions to other drivers.
- Check mirrors regularly to be aware of their surroundings.
- Wear seat belts at all times.
- Maintain their vehicle in good working order and report any issues to their supervisor or manager immediately.



## 1.6 Reporting of Accidents

The organization is committed to accommodating the needs of employees with disabilities to the point of undue hardship, in accordance with the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Ontario Human Rights Code.

## 1.7 Training

All employees who operate vehicles on behalf of the organization will receive defensive driving training, which includes a review of the Ontario Highway Traffic Act and safe driving practices. This training will be provided upon initial employment.

## 1.8 Commitment to Review

This policy will be monitored regularly to ensure its effectiveness and will be reviewed periodically to ensure that it remains consistent with the Ontario Highway Traffic Act and with any changes to relevant legislation.

## 1.9 Conclusion

The organization is committed to promoting safe driving practices and reducing the risk of accidents on the road. All employees who operate vehicles on behalf of the organization must adhere to the standards of defensive driving as outlined in this policy, and accidents must be reported immediately to the supervisor or manager. Defensive driving training will be provided to all employees who operate vehicles on behalf of the organization.