

Institut de recherche Robert-Sauvé en santé et sécurité du travail

Bringing knowledge together
to inform occupational health
and safety action

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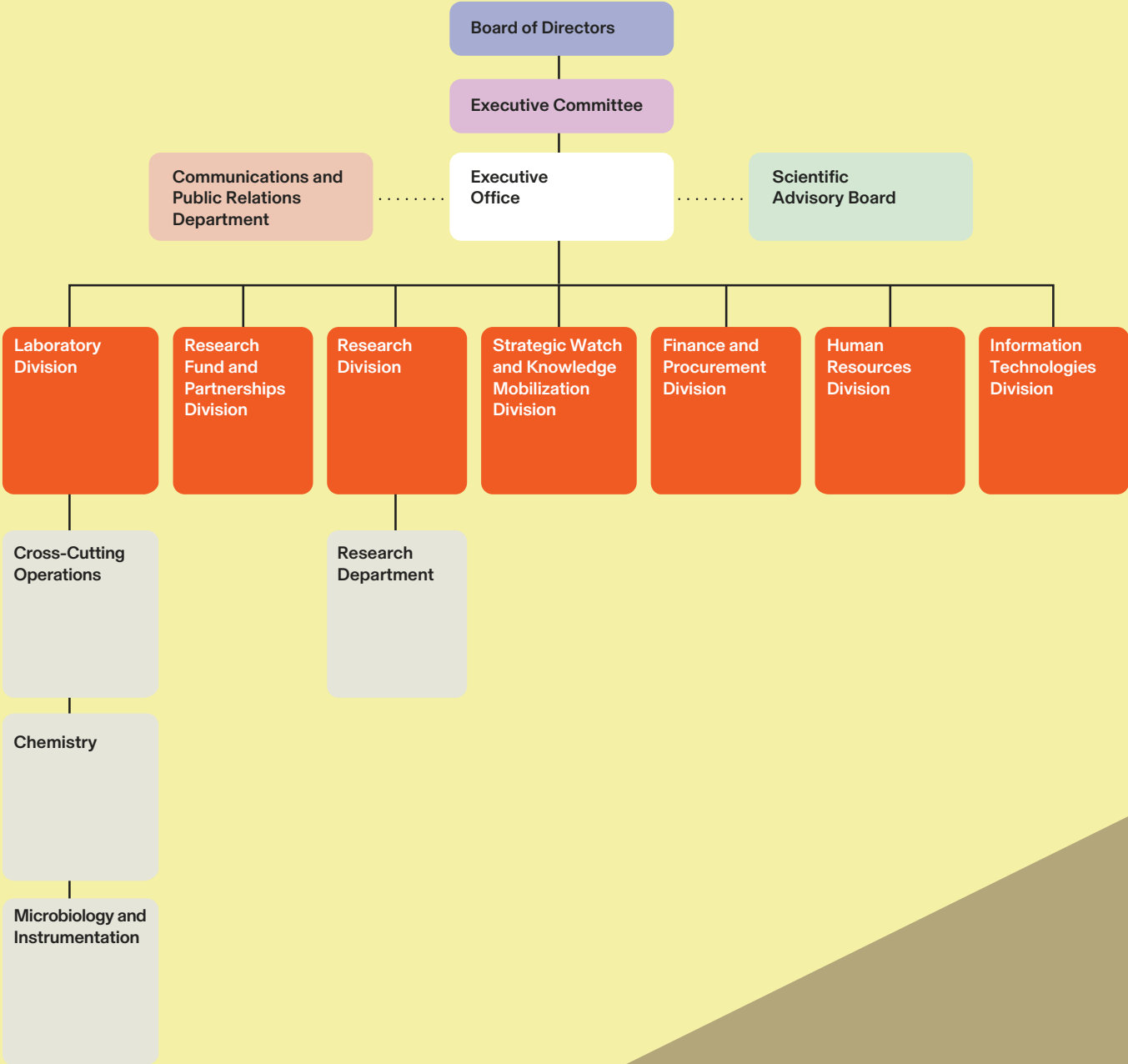
www.irsst.qc.ca

Organization Chart, Status and Governance

The IRSST contributes to workers' health and safety through research, its laboratories' expertise, and knowledge dissemination and transfer, with a view to promoting prevention and sustainable return to work.



Organization Chart



Status

Firmly established in Québec since 1980, the Institut de recherche Robert-Sauvé en santé et en sécurité du travail (IRSST) is a scientific research organization known for the expertise of its personnel and the quality of its work.

The Institute is a non-profit organization whose Board of Directors includes an equal number of employer and worker representatives. Most of its funding comes from the Commission des normes, de l'équité, de la santé et de la sécurité du travail (CNESST), directly from the contributions that the Commission collects from employers. The IRSST has also been recognized as a registered charity since 1982.

Governance

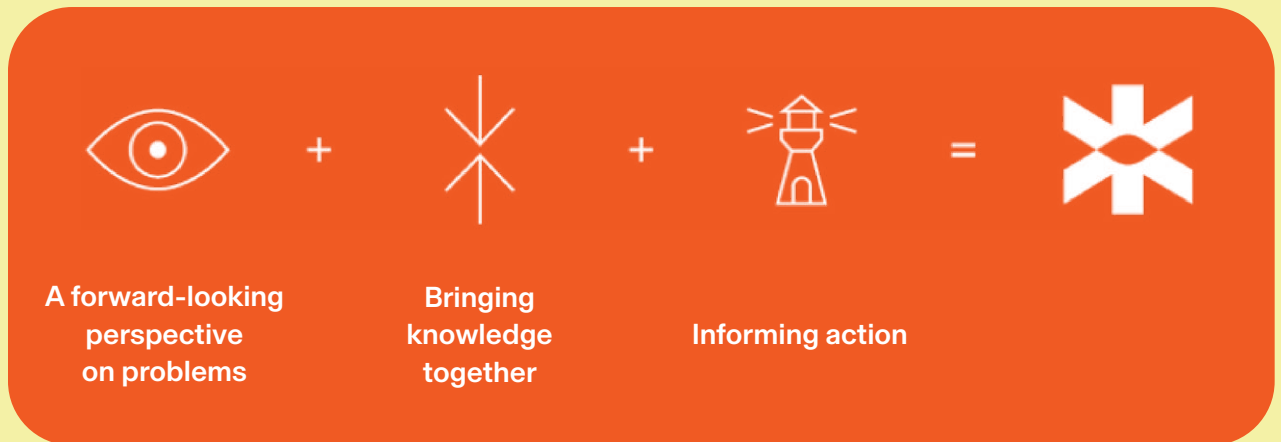
The Board of Directors

A non-profit organization and registered charity, the Institute is a parity organization whose function is research in occupational health and safety. Its Board of Directors is composed of the Chair, Vice-Chair and seven representatives each of employers and workers (all of whom also make up the CNESST's Board of Directors). The Board determines the Institute's orientation, development framework and funding.

The Scientific Advisory Board

A three-part advisory body, the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) is composed of four individuals representing employers, four others representing workers and six members from the scientific and technical community. Chaired by the Institute's President and CEO, the SAB's role is to issue its opinion on the organization's general and budgetary orientations; the determination of its research priorities, programs and study projects; the awarding of its scholarships and fellowships; and its policies regarding how its scientific activities are conducted.

Visual Identity



The IRSST's visual identity conveys a modern image consistent with its values and orientations. This identity is represented by a strong, highly meaningful symbol. The graphics depict the Institute's forward-looking perspective on occupational health and safety (OHS) problems, while underscoring its way of bringing knowledge and stakeholders together to work collaboratively in order to inform OHS action. The colour is also significant, as orange is associated with prevention.



Mission, Vision and Values



Mission

In keeping with the spirit of the *Act respecting Occupational Health and Safety* (AOHS) and the *Act respecting industrial accidents and occupational diseases* (AIAOD), the IRSST's mission is:

To contribute to workers' health and safety through research, its laboratories' expertise, and knowledge dissemination and transfer, with a view to promoting prevention and sustainable return to work.



Vision

A **leader** in the advancement and mobilization of scientific and technical knowledge in occupational health and safety (OHS), we are recognized at the national and international levels for the quality and relevance of our achievements.

Present for and influential on our OHS partners and in the public sphere, our expertise informs our actions aimed at improving the health and safety of Québec workers.

A forum for collaboration, creativity and innovation, we offer a healthy and exemplary work environment that supports initiative and the recognition of individual and collective achievements.

Values

Proud of our mission and committed to achieving our vision, we embody the following values:

Excellence, as the foundation of the IRSST's credibility and leadership;

Agility, to anticipate and respond to needs and emerging problems;

Openness, to capitalize on the diversity of people, ideas and disciplines;

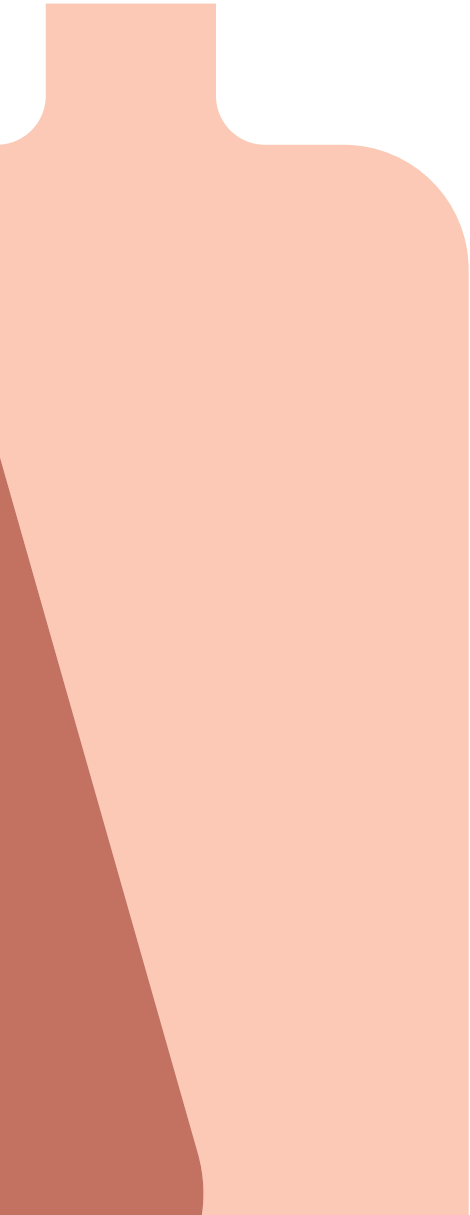
Integrity and transparency, as the heart of our work, exchanges and actions.





The Four Levers





The only organization of its kind, the IRSST combines the functions of research centre, funding agency, laboratories, and liaison and knowledge transfer centre. It makes the most of the synergies among these various levers to fully accomplish its mission and maximize its impact.

1. Research

The IRSST is a research organization known for the expertise of its scientific personnel. It contributes to the advancement of occupational health and safety (OHS) knowledge by carrying out expert assessments and conducting studies, and then publishing the results of this work. The Institute's research has three main orientations: 1) the prevention of physical and mental impairments among workers, 2) worker rehabilitation and sustainable return to work, and 3) the surveillance and mining of OHS data.

To meet the OHS needs of all workplaces, from the largest organizations to the smallest, the IRSST promotes multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research, supports a variety of methodological approaches, and encourages the development and use of multifactorial and multilevel approaches. Its specialized scientific personnel come from different disciplines, notably ergonomics, kinanthropology, biomechanics, occupational hygiene, physics, chemistry, biology, microbiology, toxicology, epidemiology, engineering, anthropology, demography, psychology, management and economics.

The research work conducted or funded by the Institute may be either applied or fundamental, but regardless, all its work is guided by workplace needs for OHS knowledge.

To fulfill its mission, the IRSST has adopted research orientations and themes, which it pursues by drawing on its large in-house capacity in terms of knowledge, expertise and infrastructure, as well as an environment conducive to collaborative initiatives with scientific, financial and workplace partners.



2. Research Fund and Partnerships

The IRSST plays an essential role in building and maintaining an occupational health and safety research community in Québec. It offers regular grant programs and special competitions, and funds studies in the priority OHS fields. It also promotes the complementarity of its own scientific resources with those of colleges, universities and other research centres in order to build multidisciplinary collaborations.

In addition to providing support to established researchers, the Institute plays a major role in training the new generation of OHS researchers. To do so, it offers a graduate studies scholarship and postdoctoral fellowship program which, alone, constitutes a rich source of young experts and promising scientists.



3. Laboratories

The IRSST's laboratories stand out for the know-how and expertise of their personnel. They also hold a number of national and international accreditations that attest to the quality of their work. They respond to requests for expert assessments and for environmental, microbiological and toxicological analyses, in addition to offering loan, calibration, maintenance and repair services for various measurement and sampling instruments to all workplaces and its partners. These include, among others, the CNESST, the public occupational health network (RSPSAT) and joint sector-based associations (ASPs).

The laboratory personnel track regulatory changes and the revisions of standards, as well as participating in the Institute's current research work. Also, they are constantly on the lookout for emerging issues in order to continue developing, optimizing and validating methods of analysis, testing and sampling that meet workplace needs.

The IRSST's laboratories thus contribute actively to OHS research.



4. Dissemination, Strategic Watch and Knowledge Mobilization

The Institute makes scientific knowledge readily accessible and comprehensible to, and usable by, its partners and workplaces.

Knowledge mobilization at the IRSST is a dynamic, interactive process driven by the parity principle and designed to meet the needs for occupational health and safety knowledge identified by the Institute or expressed by its partners.

Under the responsibility of the Institute's knowledge mobilization advisors, this process involves the commitment and participation of stakeholders, including scientists, the CNESST, joint sector-based associations, worker and employer representatives, professional orders and professional associations, among others.

The IRSST's Documentation Centre, with the collaboration of various professionals and researchers, is always watching for occupational health and safety themes.

The purpose of communicating the results of this systematic watch process is to support the IRSST's work and decision making, while providing people active in the OHS community with access to new knowledge.

Knowledge transfer is an inherent part of the Institute's organizational priorities. This means that, far from limiting itself to transferring knowledge to the scientific community only, it goes a step further to make the results of its work readily accessible and comprehensible to, as well as usable by, its partners and workplaces. It also reaches out to the general public using multiple transmission channels such as radio, television, newspapers and digital platforms.



To learn more

All the IRSST's publications can be downloaded free of charge from the institutional repository, PhareSST.

The InfoIRSST newsletter informs subscribers of the latest publications, studies currently under way, and important research news.

The general public can obtain information by subscribing to the Web site dedicated to the magazine *Prévention au travail*, published jointly with the CNESST.

You can also follow our podcast series *La SST expliquée* (in French only) on your preferred listening platform.