

Jason's Story

Young Worker's Injury Experience Part of Award-Winning Youth Campaign

Jason Croker learned about the importance of following correct workplace safety and health procedures the hard way.

"I worked in a fast food restaurant when I was 15," he recalls, "and I didn't receive any safety training. I was put in a dangerous situation where I mixed two toxic chemicals together, creating chlorine gas."

"My eyes were stinging and I had trouble breathing, but once I was evacuated from the building, I felt better," Jason remembers.

"With proper workplace safety training – Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System training – I would have known how to do my job, and how to do it safely."

Jason's workplace injury experience ended up in one of the award-winning youth ads that the WCB ran in the summer of 2008.

Jason would like to remind Manitobans that every worker has the right to know, the right to participate and the right to refuse unsafe work.

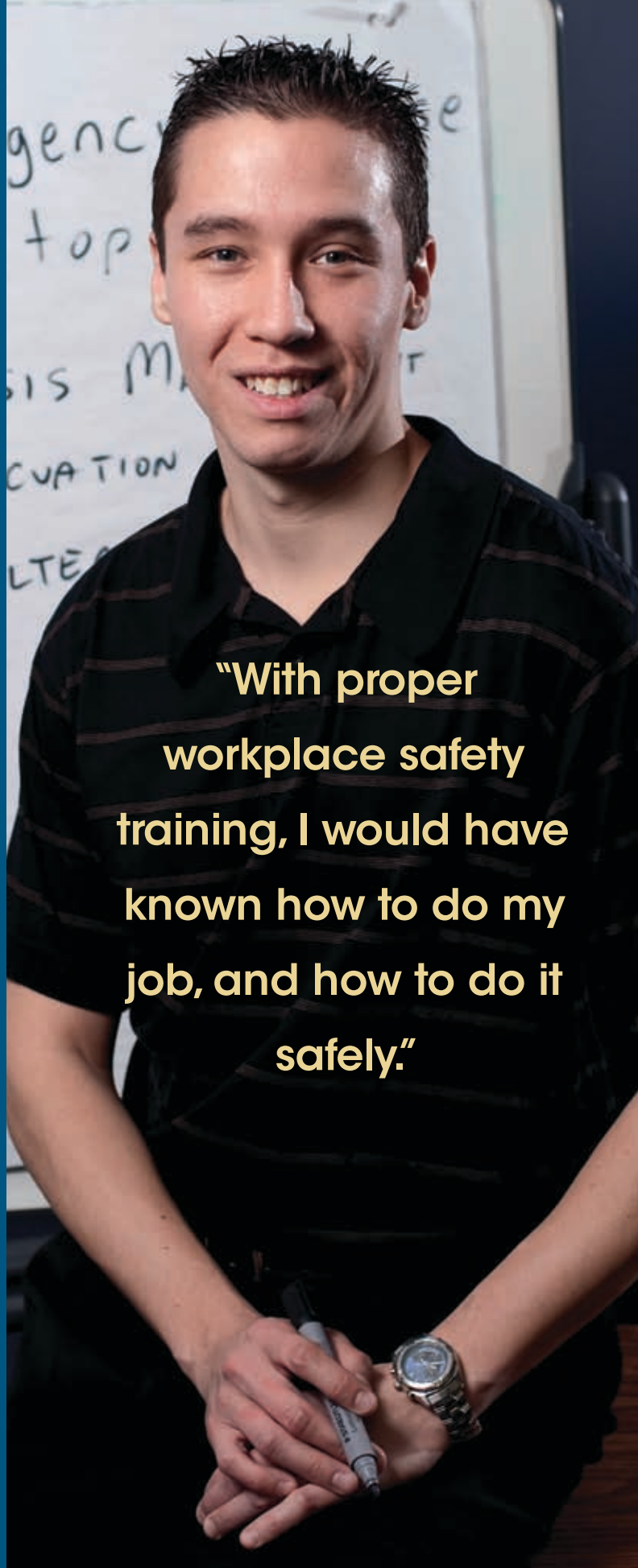
"Young workers are not fully aware of the risks," he adds. "They may not understand the concepts about being safe in the workplace."

He says one of the most important things new workers can do is to ask questions and get proper safety orientation when starting a job – whether it's in an office, restaurant, manufacturing plant or retail store. Injury prevention is important in all workplaces.

But personal responsibility is also a big part of being safe. "Your employer has to provide you with workplace safety and health education and training," explains Jason, "but you also have a responsibility to follow through on that information and to adhere to SAFE Work procedures."

"Many young workers think they are invincible. I know I did. That's why it is really important to educate new workers about hazards in the workplace, so they develop safe working habits and carry that behaviour with them throughout their lives."

Now in his late 20s, Jason has put his employment experiences – and workplace safety knowledge – to good use. He works as a Safety and Health Advisor for the Manitoba Lotteries Corporation.



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Always on the Job