# equity

# An Audit of Psychological Safety in the Workplace

## Tamara Larson

### Defining psychological safety in the workplace

- 1. Do you have programs and policies to create workplace burnout?
- 2. Does the workload provide balance for employees and leadership?
- 3. Does the work environment provide a place of trust and respect?
- 4. What policies, protocols and procedures are in place to mitigate conflict?
- 5. How is inappropriate behavior addressed?
- 6. Do employees and leaders show each other respect for ideas, values and beliefs that are diverse?
- 7. Is there a clear vision for the organization?
- 8. How are employees informed about change?
- 9. What mechanisms are in place that provide clear and concise communication?
- 10. Do employees have learning development opportunities?
- 11. Are employees provided the necessary training to do their jobs?
- 12. Are employees and leaders held accountable for their actions and decisions?
- 13. Is your workplace inclusive of employees with diverse backgrounds and skill sets?
- 14. What are your core values?
- 15. What protocols and procedures are in place to handle work place bullying?
- 16. How do employees raise concerns about psychological health and safety?
- 17. Do you have a mental health awareness program?
- 18. Do you have mental health supports/benefts available?

Goals: what are YOUR workplace priorities?

#### **Benefits of psychological safety**

- 1. Benefts of balance for employees: lifestyle, workplace, personal
  - 1. Greater morale
  - 2. Reduced stress and burnout.
  - 3. Enhanced performance and productivity
  - 4. Reduced absenteeism.
- 2. Respect and trust
  - 1. Effective teamwork
  - 2. Reduced conflict.
  - 3. Fewer grievances
  - 4. Reduced risk management (litigation)
  - 5. Increase in positive external/client/customer relations.
  - 6. Reduction in staff turnover
- 3. Leadership
  - 1. Clear expectations for employees and teams
  - 2. Effective work practices (work smarter not harder)
  - 3. Develop tools for resilience and adaptability.
  - 4. Create trust in leadership.
  - 5. Clear vision
  - 6. Positive practices, procedures, and protocols for conflict resolution
- 4. Engagement
  - 1. Enhanced performance and productivity
  - 2. High morale and motivation
  - 3. Employee retention
  - 4. Acquiring top talent to your organizations
  - 5. Improved client and customer relations
  - 6. Opportunity for growth (retention)
  - 7. Decreased absenteeism.

- 5. Growth and Development
  - 1. Communication; trust and respect
  - 2. Succession planning
  - 3. Growth opportunities; internal promotions
  - 4. Enhanced customer service, products, quality



- 6. Involvement
  - 1. Employee engagement in job and roles increases performance and engagement.
  - 2. Learn to take active role in resolving conflict.
  - 3. Create trust and respect between employees and leadership.

#### 7. Organization Structure

- 1. Higher job satisfaction
- 2. Improved teamwork
- 3. Increased positivity
- 4. Stronger employee retention
- 5. Increased opportunities for growth and learning
- 6. Positive public image
- 8. Physical safety
  - 1. Fewer job injuries and accidents
  - 2. Reduction in costs due to absenteeism and retraining.
  - 3. Reduction in costs due to WCB and OH&S
- 9. Psychological Safety
  - 1. Reduced absenteeism.
  - 2. Reduced conflict.
  - 3. Empathy and support for employees
  - 4. Reduced workplace accidents and incidents.
  - 5. Trust and respect
  - 6. Creativity and innovation

#### 10. Mental Health Awareness

- 1. Improved health of all employees and leadership
- 2. Increased productivity
- 3. Reduced costs due to absenteeism.
- 4. Increased morale
- 5. Safe spaces for diffcult conversations
- 6. Improved teamwork
- 7. Conflict reduction
- 8. Increase in trust and respect.
- 9. Increase in morale.
- 11. Workload management
  - 1. Better work/life balance
  - 2. Increase in productivity and creativity.
  - 3. Decrease in job related errors, accidents, incidents
  - 4. Increase in retention and loyalty.
- 12. Create recognition and reward.
  - 1. Enhanced employee satisfaction
  - 2. Increased motivation
  - 3. Encourage innovation and creativity.
  - 4. Trust and respect: labour relations, teamwork

Want to learn how to create a safe space where no one is left behind?

Reach out today and we can work together to build a plan for YOUR organization!

tamara@growleaders.ca



Psychological Safety is Essential for a Healthy Cohesive Work Environment.

https://growleaders.ca

