ABSTRACT

Objectives
This pilot study was carried out to explore the conceptual basis and substantive issues influencing recognition and reporting of occupational disease.

Methods
The study used a qualitative design with seven focus groups selected to represent key stakeholders in occupational health and safety. The focus groups included WSIB front line occupational disease team members, WSIB front line operations team members, WSIB directors, health care professionals, union/worker representatives, employers and ill and/or injured workers.

Results
The evaluation of core concepts indicated that some factors such as (1) recognition and reporting and (2) disease and injury need to be considered as separate phenomena with potentially different determinants. The main new unit of analysis identified was stakeholder location and, in particular to whom stakeholders are accountable, which may be associated with different perspectives within and between stakeholder groups. Three main determinants of recognition and reporting were identified including: (1) psycho-social factors, (2) workplace cultural factors, and (3) systemic and structural factors.

Conclusions
This qualitative pilot study has identified key concepts, units of analysis and determinants of recognition and reporting that should be considered in future research.