

REGISTRATION

Please complete the registration form and mail, together with your payment to the:

*Occupational Health Clinics for Ontario Workers
15 Gervais Drive, Suite 601
Toronto, Ontario M3C 1Y8
Phone: (416) 443-6320
Fax: (416) 443-6323
Attention: Christine Urquhart*

Registration Fee: \$115.00

(Fee covers attendance at all sessions and workshops, materials and breaks as well as dinner Friday night.)

Payment Method:

Make cheques payable to:

Occupational Health Clinics for Ontario Workers Inc.

Cheque Bill me

Note: Faxed registrations will only be accepted if payment is received within two weeks of the fax. Your registration will be processed and confirmed only on receipt of payment.

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ **Province:** _____

Telephone: () _____

Fax: () _____

E-mail: _____

Dinner: *(Friday May 28)*

I will attend I will not attend

Accommodation:

Delegates are responsible for their own hotel arrangements. A special rate for conference delegates has been arranged with the Hilton Toronto Airport Hotel at \$120.00 plus taxes (single or double occupancy). Rooms will be held until May 14, 2004. Please contact the Hilton Toronto Airport Hotel directly to book a room(s) at **1-800-567-9999** toll free or **(905) 677-9900**.

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

- To examine the economic and personal costs of musculoskeletal injuries.
- To review and compare existing ergonomics legislation in North America and other jurisdictions.
- To discuss where we are at in terms of ergonomic protection in Ontario.
- Identify and promote effective strategies and actions for getting an ergonomic regulation passed in Ontario.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

Anyone who wants to put an end to the pain and suffering associated with musculoskeletal injuries.

- Worker members of joint health and safety committees;
- Union health and safety representatives;
- Elected union leaders;
- Bargaining unit members; and
- Injured workers.

CONFERENCE SPONSORS

- Occupational Health Clinics for Ontario Workers
- Workers Health and Safety Centre
- Ontario Federation of Labour
- Canadian Labour Congress

February 2004



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Ergonomic Regulation Conference

LEGISLATING ERGONOMIC SOLUTIONS

Activists working for change

**MAY 28-29
2004**



**Hilton Toronto Airport Hotel
5875 Airport Road
Mississauga, Ontario**



Canadian Labour Congress
Congrès du travail du Canada

ERGONOMIC REGULATION CONFERENCE

May 28-29, 2004
Hilton Toronto Airport Hotel

AGENDA

Friday, May 28

Co-sponsored by:
Occupational Health Clinics for Ontario Workers
Workers Health and Safety Centre

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|------|----|--|
| 1:00 | PM | Opening remarks |
| 1:15 | PM | Honourable Chris Bentley, Minister of Labour (invited) |
| 1:30 | PM | Plenary (with questions and answers):
<i>The Economic Cost of Musculoskeletal Injuries and Status of Existing Ergonomic Regulations</i> (speaker to be announced). |
| 2:30 | PM | Break |
| 3:00 | PM | Panel Discussion: <i>Experiences in Creating an Ergonomic Regulation</i>
Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Cathy Walker, Director, Health and Safety, Canadian Autoworkers Union (CAW);■ James Frederick, Assistant Director, Health and Safety and Environment, United Steelworkers of America (USWA). |
| 5:00 | PM | Adjournment |
| 6:00 | PM | Dinner |
| 7:00 | PM | Keynote Speaker: <i>The Human Cost of Musculoskeletal Injury</i> (speaker to be announced). |

Saturday, May 29

Co-sponsored by:
Ontario Federation of Labour and
Canadian Labour Congress

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|-------|----|---|
| 9:00 | AM | Workshops: <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ <i>Strategies for implementing ergonomic solutions;</i>■ <i>"Toolkit" for affecting change.</i> |
| 10:20 | AM | Break |
| 10:30 | AM | Workshops (continue) |
| 11:50 | AM | Plenary and Closing Remarks |
| 12:15 | PM | Adjournment |



LEGISLATING ERGONOMIC SOLUTIONS

The incidence of work-related musculoskeletal injuries (MSIs), also known as repetitive strain injuries (RSIs) and musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs), has reached epidemic proportions.

According to Ontario Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) statistics, MSIs account for more than 50 per cent of all reported injuries. Workers in all sectors of the economy are developing these disorders. Equally troubling, the numbers of workers developing RSIs show no sign of declining. Beyond the numbers are the incalculable human and social costs of these painful, disabling injuries.

Many workplaces have adopted ergonomic solutions aimed at preventing MSIs. Others have not. Injured workers, trade unionists and activists who share a common goal of eliminating MSIs agree ergonomic regulations and their enforcement must be part of any successful prevention strategy. Without them, workers, their families and their communities will continue to suffer.

Working for Change

Although regulatory action is limited in Canada, there has been much success in British Columbia. Workers Compensation Board statistics show that since BC passed their ergonomic regulation in 1998, musculoskeletal injuries have decreased by 19 per cent and MSI claims costs have been reduced by 40 per cent.

In Ontario, any specific ergonomic regulatory protection is limited to workers in the health care sector. Workers in other sectors across the province are attempting to use existing legislation, such as the general duty clause in the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*, to call for preventive action in their workplaces. Unfortunately, without definitive language, employers are more often than not left to their own devices unsure of what standard they must meet. Thus, many workers in Ontario are left unprotected.

Workers and their representatives know the benefits of having enforced ergonomic legislation. However much work yet remains, before this can become a reality both federally and provincially.

Health and safety activists know they must continue "working for change" to protect the unprotected. ■■■■■