

June 24 & 25, 2016

A WHSC conference focused on strategies and techniques for quality worker training.

Delivering the highest quality occupational health and safety training to workers and their representatives remains the WHSC's number one priority. In our current context however ensuring continued access to this training is not without its challenges.

Ontario's training gap

What defines health and safety training in this province is under increasing pressure. Over the years we have all seen lectures, videos, and information passed off as training. Most recently online resources have been added to this mix and some have even been accepted as meeting government training standards. Too often training content also downplays worker rights and employer responsibilities, ignores hazards and the hierarchy of controls and ultimately scapegoats workers for workplace illness, injury and death.

Evaluating training has been equally problematic. Many existing online attempts have no integrity to the process – no two-way participation, no evaluation of learning, and no assurance of the on-line participants' identity. Others administer written pass/fail tests, the outcome of which potentially denies workers employment. As such, all these approaches leave worker lives and livelihoods vulnerable.

The need for discussion and action

It's time we take better stock *and* take action. Workers and their representatives deserve better. As Ontario's only government-designated, labour-endorsed health and safety training centre, we think it essential to our mandate to further important conversations about Ontario's current health and safety training gap.

At our conference then we want to address the following questions:

- ✓ What is training and how does it fit in the workplace health and safety program?
- ✓ How can we ensure learning without using exam-style testing?
- ✓ What is the role of experience, assessment and practice?
- ✓ How can we design training for workers regardless of literacy or numeracy levels?
- ✓ How can adult learning principles be applied to e-learning?
- ✓ What does an effective training standard look like?
- ✓ Who and what should be subject to mandatory training standards?
- ✓ What will it take to develop and implement these standards?

Who should attend?

To help us get at the answers we invite:

- ✓ WHSC-qualified union instructors
- ✓ Union education co-ordinators
- ✓ Union health and safety co-ordinators
- ✓ Union leaders.

The logistics

Plenary and workshops

Location

Friday, June 24, 2016, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm; and
Saturday, June 25, 2016, 9:00 am to Noon

Toronto Don Valley Hotel, 175 Wynford Dr., Toronto, ON