

Ontario Healthy Workplace Coalition

Coalition Update: January 31, 2008

**Mark Your Calendars: Workplace Health Symposium,
March 18 & 19, 2008, Holiday Inn on King, Toronto, Ontario
REGISTER EARLY- Agenda Coming Soon!**

You can register for the March Symposium by filling out the on-line registration form at http://www.thcu.ca/Workplace/events/2008_symp/

The Steering Committee is pleased to update you on the Coalition's activities since our last communication. As such, we are also pleased to introduce Vic Pakalnis, the newest member of the Committee who brings the academic/research perspective to our deliberations, along with a wealth of valuable experience in industry and government. Vic is the Ontario Public Service Amethyst Fellow for 2007-08 at Queen's University, School of Policy Studies.

The Coalition is continuing its efforts to include labour representation on the Steering Committee, and we will keep you posted on the outcome. The Steering Committee met on October 12 and December 4 via teleconference and convened a face-to-face meeting on November 5, 2007. Our focus has been on building capacity and reaching out to key stakeholders.

The Standing Committees are now in place, having recruited their members, and held their first meetings. Each is dedicated to one of our four core functions: Communication (both internal and external), Advocacy, Capacity Building, and Resource Integration.

The Standing Committee members are as follows:

Communication – Brian Verrall, Lori Balan, Dawn Cressman, Bessie Wang, Jill Tackney

Advocacy – Monica Bovett, Giovanna Ferrara, Shannon Grafham, Allan Smofsky

Resource Integration – Dina Meunier, Jennifer Lombardo, Janet Baker, Sandra Wilson, Allyson McElwain

Capacity Building – Marjorie Collie, Linda Bain, Joanne Bergen, Michelle Tew, Donna Fraleigh

We were honoured to welcome Deputy Minister of Labour, Virginia West, to our November meeting, along with John Vander Doelen, Director of the Occupational Health and Safety Policy Branch at the Ontario Ministry of Labour. Deputy West also

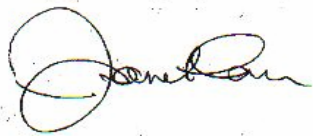
co-chairs the Forum on the Advancement of Healthy Workplaces, along with the Deputy Minister of Health Promotion, whom we have also invited to meet with us. At the meeting, Deputy West underlined the importance of creating a better understanding of what a healthy workplace is and identifying areas where the greatest impact might be had; she also stressed the importance of a complementary focus among workplace health stakeholders. Mr. Vander Doelen will be the Coalition's continuing communication link with the Labour Ministry. In addition, we continue to schedule meetings with key stakeholders, and will provide an update on these in our next communication.

On January 31, 2008, the Steering Committee will meet in a two-day Planning and Evaluation Session, to review our progress to date, and to decide on next steps in moving ahead with our strategic plan. Among the issues to be discussed at the session will be the budget, a communications plan, membership, and the March Symposium. A communications update to the members will follow shortly after this meeting.

We remain committed to keeping you posted on our progress, and we encourage and look forward to your feedback and ideas. Please feel free to contact the Ontario Healthy Workplace Coalition Secretariat at 416-978-0595 or jelgie@thcu.ca if you have any questions or want to share your ideas, and also with any questions about the Symposium.

Please stay tuned for the outcome of our upcoming meetings with key stakeholders and the results of our Planning and Evaluation Session.

Yours truly,



Janet Carr, Co-Chair, Ontario Healthy Workplace Coalition
Judy Kerling, Co-Chair, Ontario Healthy Workplace Coalition

Ontario Healthy Workplace Coalition Steering Committee

Dr. Irmajean Bajnok, Registered Nurses Association of Ontario
Shaun Baylis, Human Solutions and Ontario Chamber of Commerce
Sandra L. Bozzo, Ministry of Labour
Cathi Carr, Workplace Safety & Insurance Board
Janet Carr, Ottawa Public Health
Norma Gibson-MacDonald, Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety
Judy Kerling, Region of Peel
Raymond Langlois, Peel Public Health
Vic Pakalnis, Queen's University

The Health Communication Unit (THCU), Secretariat