

LABOUR OHCOW ACADEMIC RESEARCH COLLABORATION

Dear Health and Safety Activist:

“Internal Responsibility Thirty Years Later: Not Yet Healthy: and Still Not Safe”

You are invited to attend an important teach-in where you and other health and safety activists (researchers, workers, union representatives, and community) will share knowledge about health and safety concerns and strategize how workers can address today’s challenges in preventing workplace injuries, fatalities and occupational disease.

Date: Tuesday, May 25, 2010

Time: 9:00 – 4:00 (lunch provided)

Location: McMaster University, Degroote School of Business, Room 505
1280 Main St. West, Hamilton, L8S 4L8

The Occupational Health and Safety Act came into law in 1979, but workers still die, get injured, or suffer from occupational disease every day in Ontario. Protections of health and safety law do not come automatically. Positive changes come only when workers, unions, and community work with sympathetic professionals and academics to demand safe and healthy workplaces and refuse to be poisoned and maimed on the job. This is what May 25 is about: sharing research and experiences among people who have a common interest in protecting workers’ health and building the knowledge, mobilization, and action that will make a difference in Ontario.

At the teach-in, we will reflect on management responsibilities for health and safety and the current system of worker representation and enforcement. We will discuss the social factors that affect health and safety, the impact of globalization and the precarious status of workers, and strategize actions that will move Ontario’s current prevention and compensation systems to provide more effective protection. We will share experiences and collaborate together to inspire each other to work towards making sure that Ontario workers actually do get to be “safe and healthy” before another thirty years elapses.

The time is right for this discussion. A government appointed panel led by Tony Dean is conducting a comprehensive review of Ontario’s Occupational Health and Safety System (OHS)

and enforcement system and will report back in the fall of 2010 with recommendations for improvement. We will be using this day to highlight and discuss our concerns about the future of health and safety in Ontario, and our proposals for making health and safety a true priority. Your involvement can help us to make this effort a success.

Please join us. To register, please email Wayne Lewchuk at lewchuk@mcmaster.ca.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andy." The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Andy King, USW on behalf of Labour, Academic, Organizational
Research Collaboration (LOARC) Chair

LOARC organizing committee:

Alec Farquhar, Managing Director, Occupational Health Clinics for Ontario Workers
(OHCOW)

Wayne Lewchuk, McMaster University

Alan Hall, University of Windsor

Robert Storey, McMaster University

Syed Naqvi, OHCOW

Nick DeCarlo, CAW

Terri Aversa, OPSEU

Laura Lozanski, CAUT