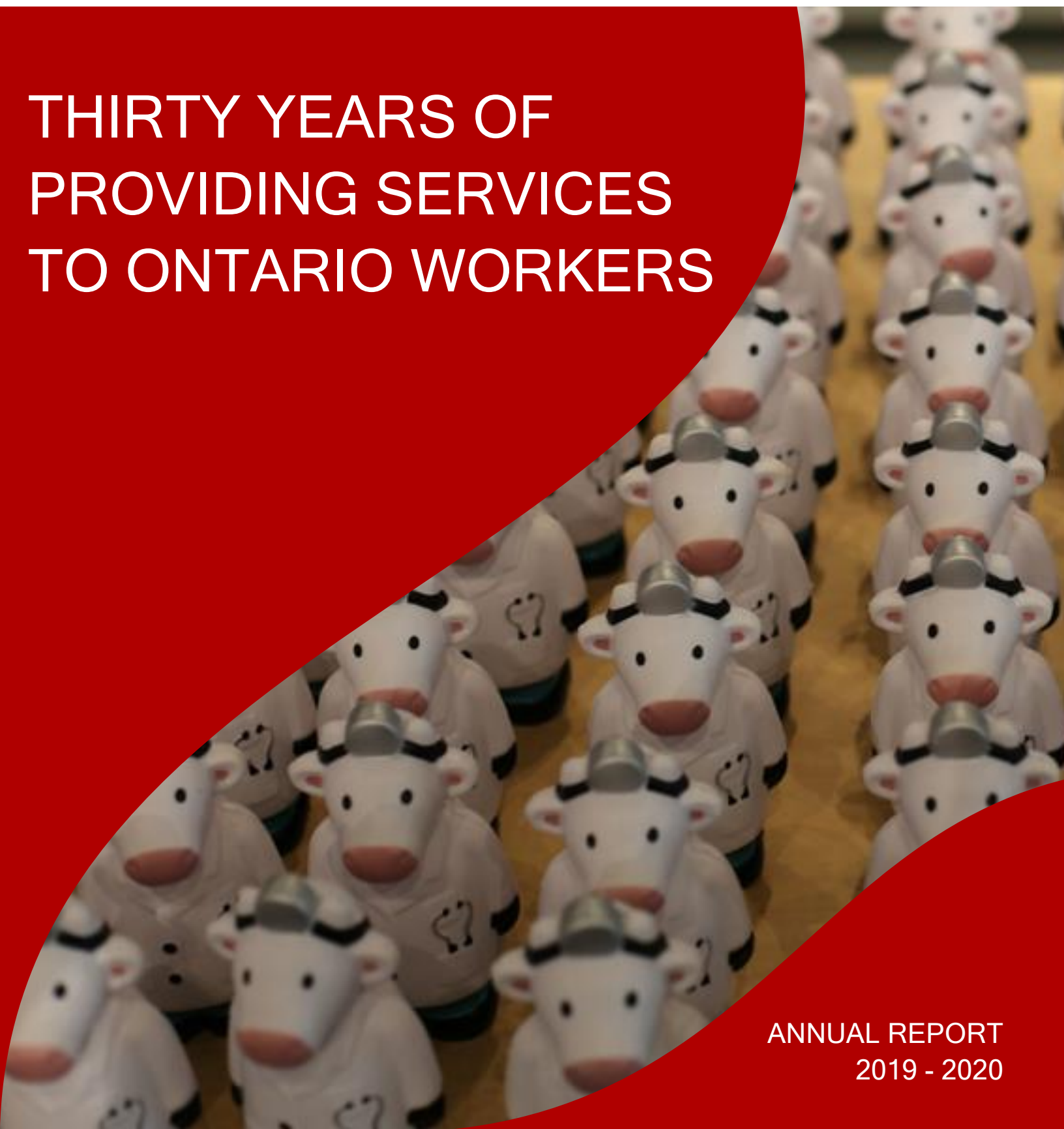




Occupational
Health Clinics
for Ontario
Workers Inc.

Centres de
santé des
travailleurs (ses)
de l'Ontario Inc.

THIRTY YEARS OF PROVIDING SERVICES TO ONTARIO WORKERS



ANNUAL REPORT
2019 - 2020

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This Annual Report provides a summary of OHCOW achievements from April 1st 2019 to March 31st 2020 and highlights some of our key priorities including: Promoting Occupational Health, Taking Action against Occupational Disease, fostering Workplace Mental Health, and Championing Vulnerability in the context of our individual, workplace, project, system, and provincial work.

About Us

Learn more about OHCOW:



Mission & Vision

OHCOW's Mission and Vision:



Message from Chair and CEO

Please view video messages from OHCOW Board of Directors Chair, David Chezzi, and from OHCOW CEO, Michael Roche, below.



30th Anniversary

On February 17th, 2019 OHCOW celebrated 30 years of prevention work and the promotion of physical, mental, and social well-being for Ontario workers. We spent the rest of the year celebrating 30 years of OHCOW around the province!

Some highlights from our year of anniversary celebrations include:

- Spring into ACTion Health & Safety Forum in Ottawa on April 5th - with its segment called “A Look Back and Ahead.” Read more about topics and speakers in our [Community Events](#) section below.
- Sudbury Clinic Open House on June 7th
- Thunder Bay Open House on November 8th



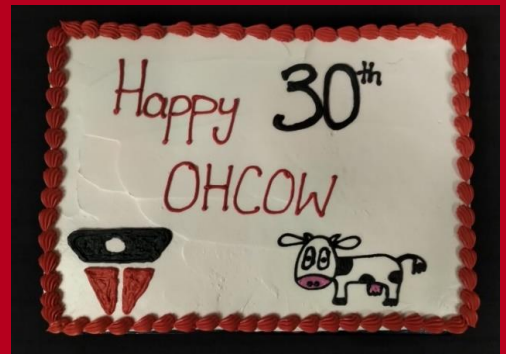
Thunder Bay Clinic staff, Dwayne Fuchs, Kimberly O'Connell, and Jennifer Hill, welcome attendees.

- Hamilton's 30th Anniversary Symposium Putting Knowledge into Action was held on November 22nd. Read more about this event in our [Community Events](#) section below.
- Toronto Health & Safety Info Fair, November 28th This event was held adjacent to the OFL Conference and we invited attendees to help us celebrate 30 years of OHCOW, as well as meet our team of experts and Local Advisory Committee (LAC) members and took part in Health & Safety Information & Tool Demonstrations, and Cluster Project Updates.



Occupational
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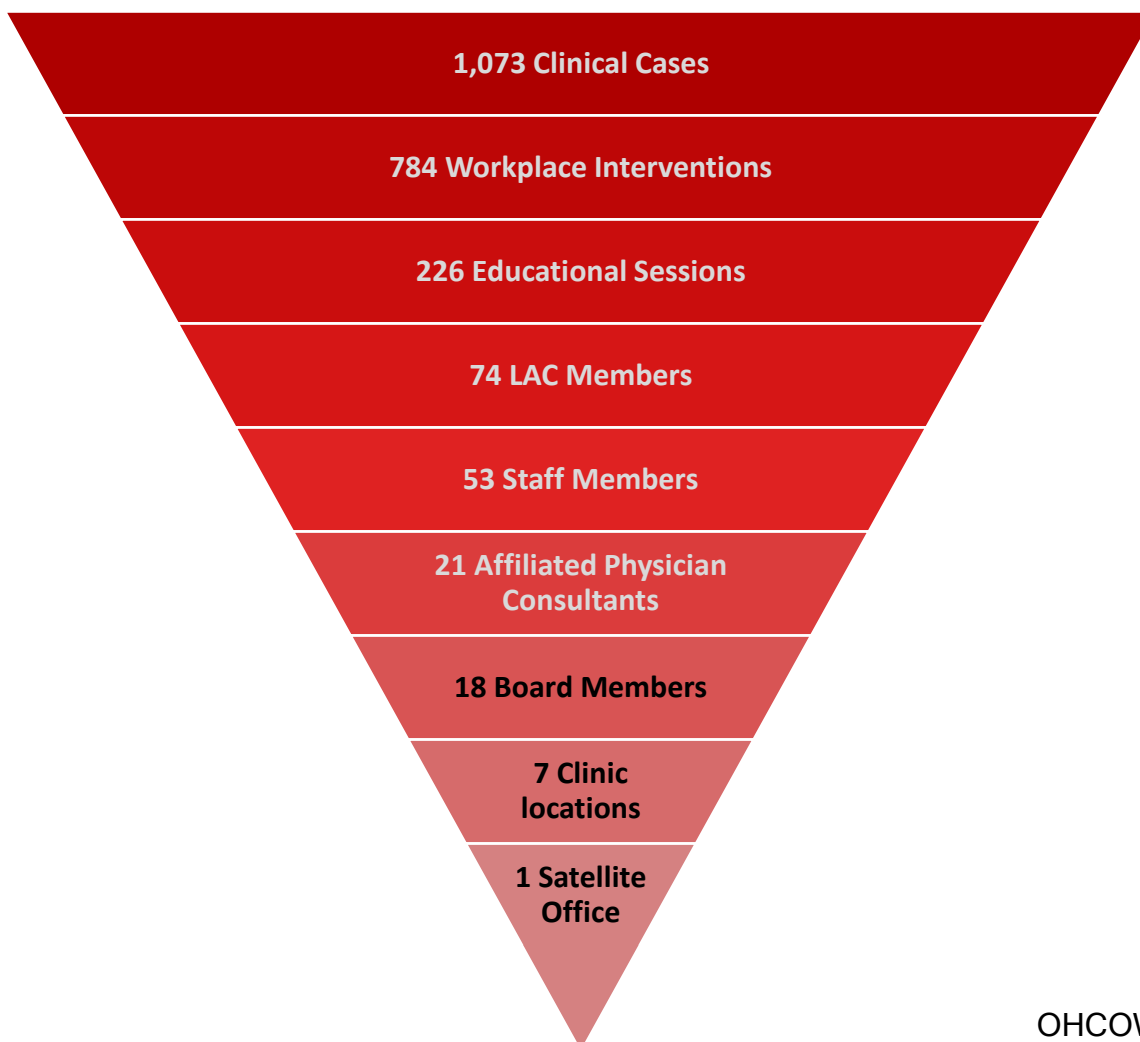
Centres de
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travailleurs (ses)
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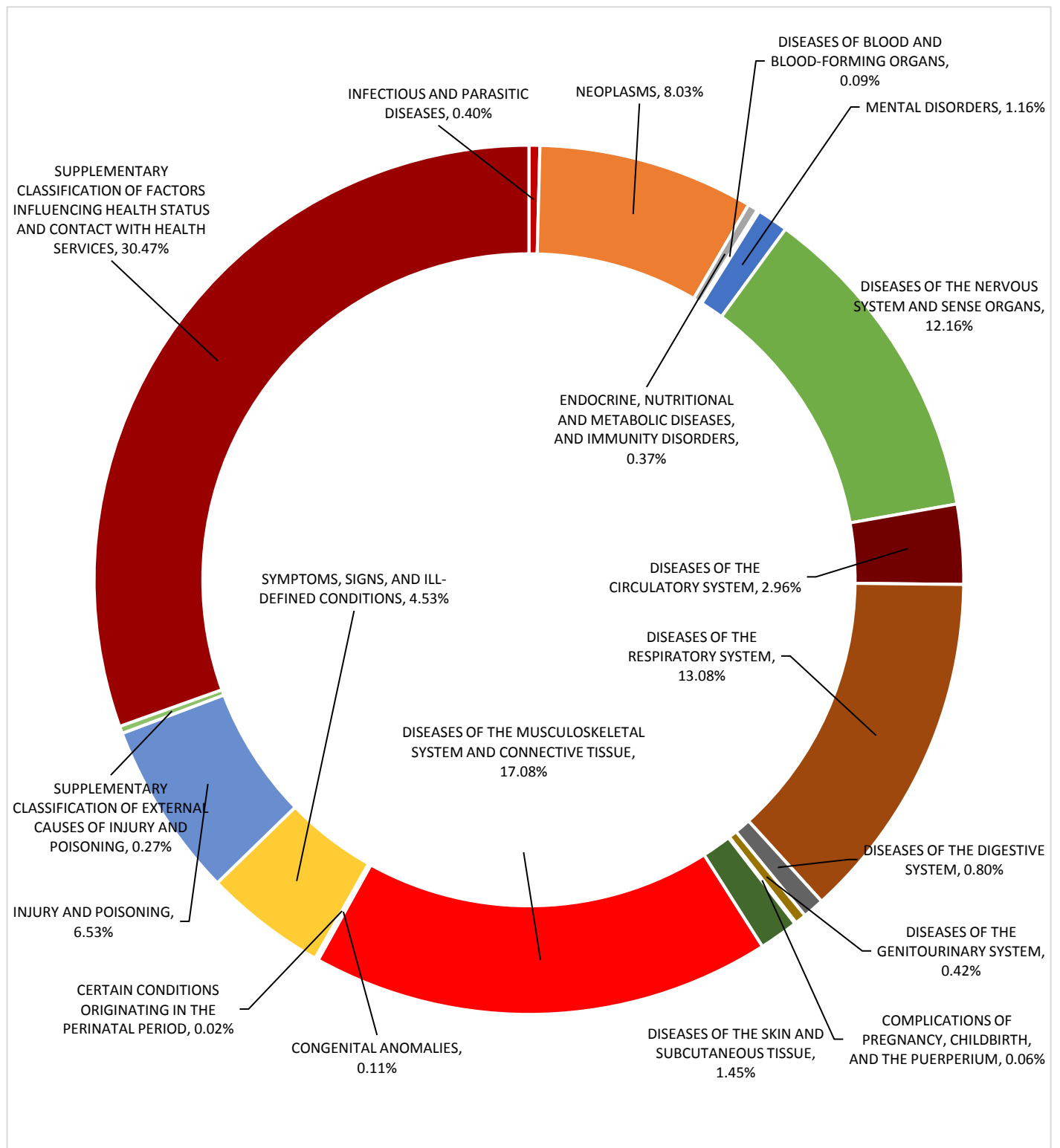
Toronto clinic and Provincial office staff at Toronto Health & Safety Info Fair

2019 - 2020 by the Numbers

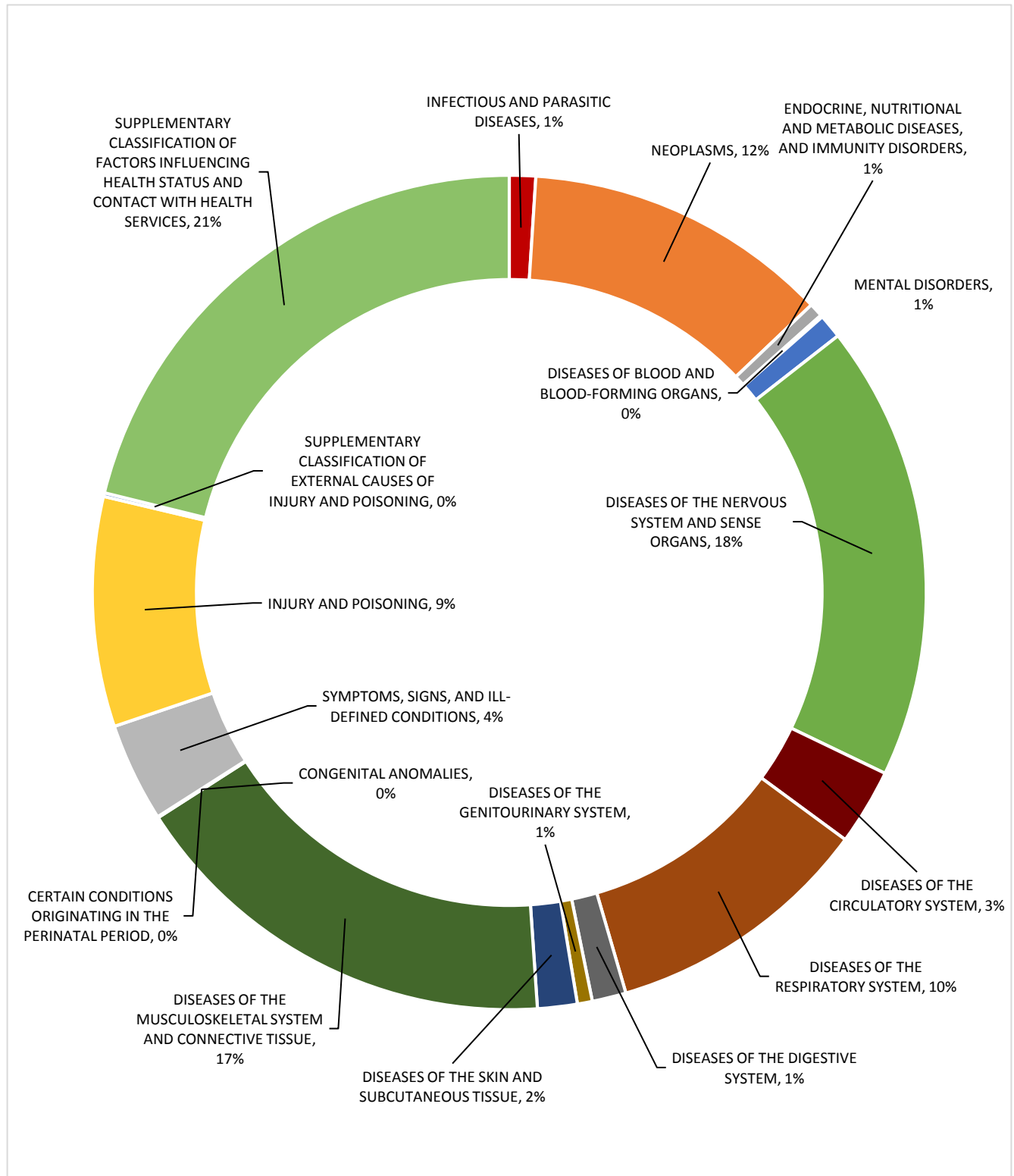


Historical Perspective

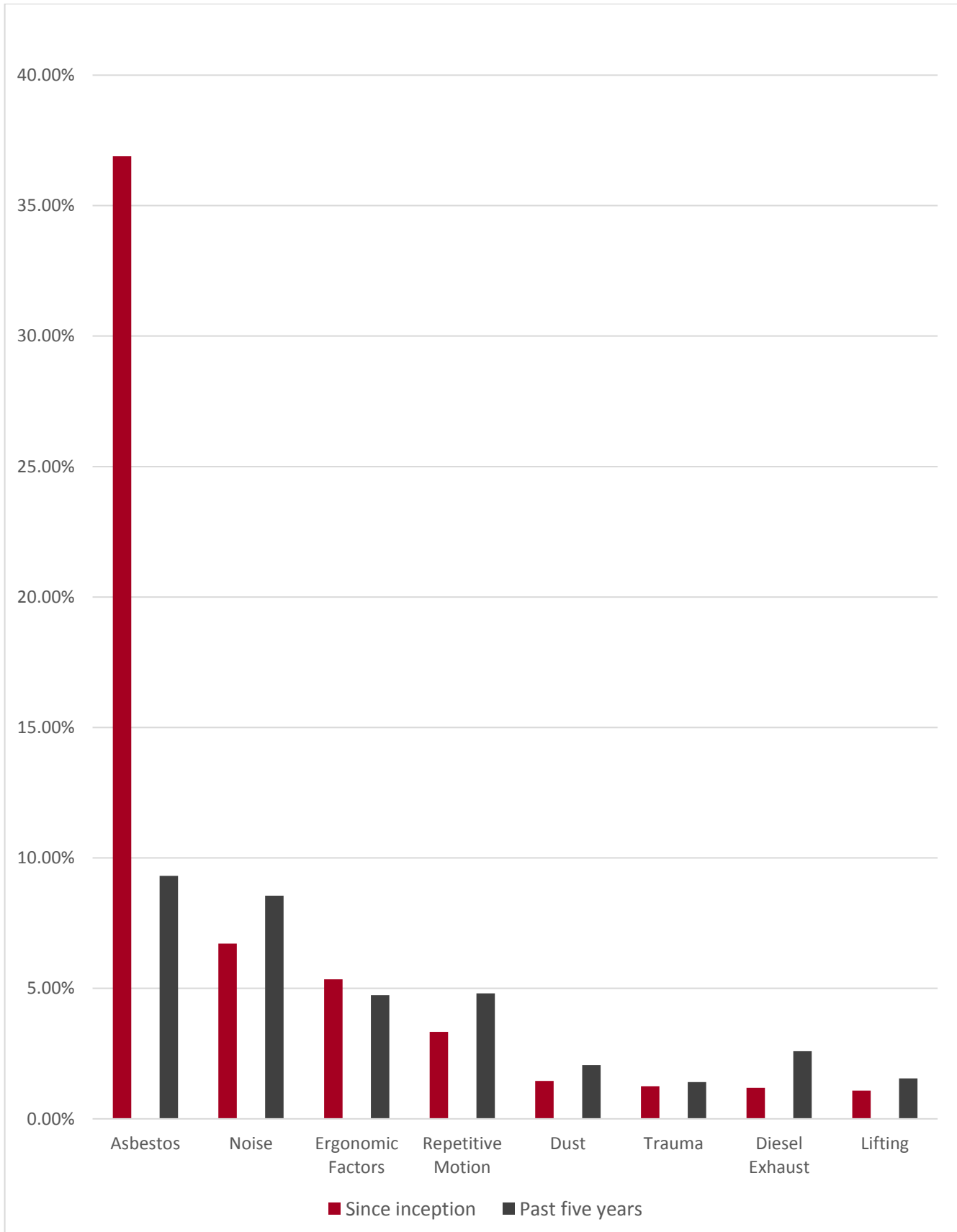
Diagnoses Since OHCOV's Inception



Diagnoses in the Past Five Years



Most Prevalent Case Exposures



Prevention Through Intervention

A significant proportion of the efforts of OHCOW's inter-disciplinary teams are directed toward clinical cases and group (workplace) consultations & interventions. In both circumstances, it is critical to be able to identify workplace exposures, past or present, and how they affect the health of workers. Recognizing causal relationships allows for the ability to support claims when warranted, but more importantly, to advise workers, workplaces and even industries on how to prevent such exposures in future.

Renal Cell Carcinoma and the Steel Industry

By Sheila Patterson, presented by Jennifer Skuce



Myelodysplastic Syndrome in an Automotive Worker

Presented by Melissa Statham



Glenohumeral Osteoarthritis (OA) of a Commercial Plumber/Pipefitter

By Dwayne Fuchs, presented by Maria Vieira



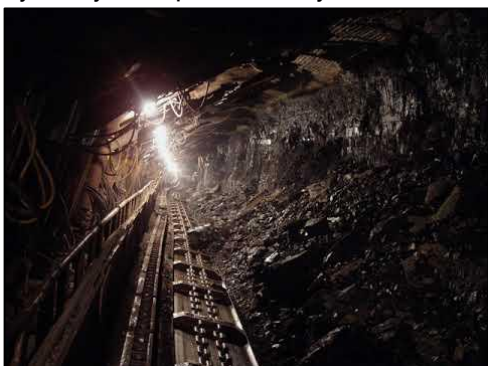
Workers with Elevated Nickel Levels

Presented by Mark Parent



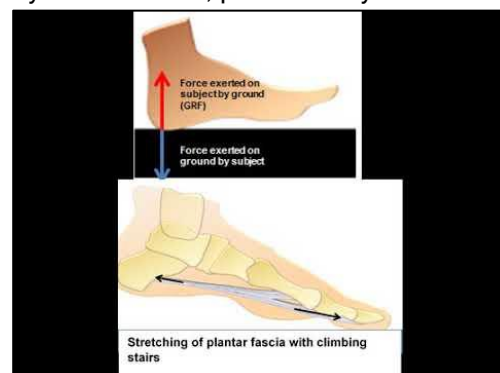
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) due to Multiple Exposures in the Mining Industry

By Shirley Yan, presented by Sonia Lal



Diagnosis of Plantar Fasciitis while employed as a Millwright

By Trevor Schell, presented by Jennifer Skuce



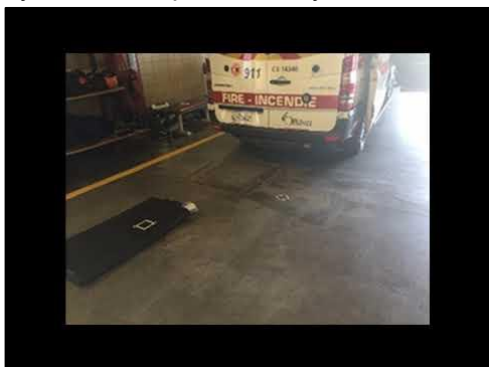
Investigation of Worker Exposure to Hexavalent Chromium at an Aerospace Parts Manufacturing Facility

By Todd Irick, presented by Jennifer Skuce



Assessment of Potential Exposure to Diesel Exhaust and Other Surface Contaminants at a Firefighter Training Facility

By Todd Irick, presented by Jennifer Skuce



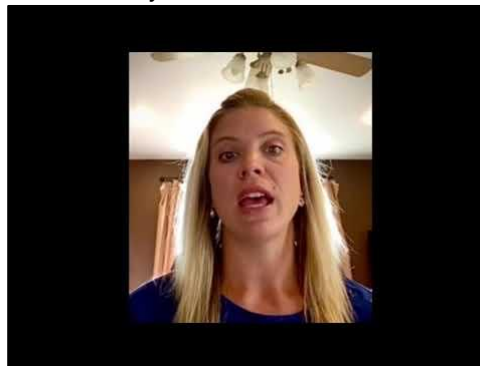
Airport Reception Desks, Ergonomic Consultation

By David Mijatovic, presented by Sonia Lal



Educating Ergonomic Professionals

Presented by Melissa Statham



Key Priority: Occupational Disease Cluster Investigations

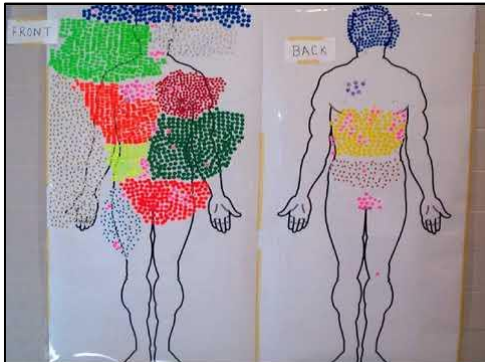
Occupational disease cluster investigations are conducted for a number of reasons: to identify if there is a common exposure of concern which should be evaluated and possibly reduced or eliminated (primary prevention); to screen individuals to detect early signs of disease so treatment can mitigate the harm, and potential compounding exposures avoided (secondary prevention); to review individual circumstances and determine whether the link between workplace factors and disease incidence is strong enough to warrant compensation (tertiary prevention); and also serves to raise awareness about health and safety in general, promoting prevention throughout the workplace and industry.



See the video above to view updates on all 3 Cluster projects that were included in a presentation by OHCOV COO, Dave Wilken at Occ-tober. For more information from the Occ-tober event, see [below](#).

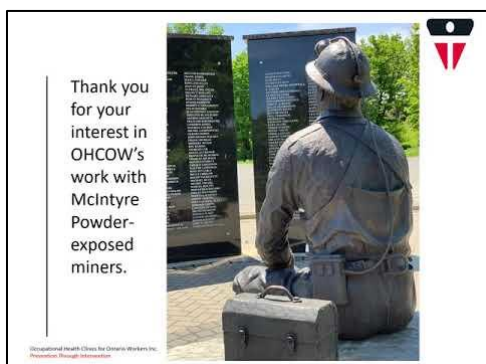
Peterborough Satellite Office

More about our Peterborough office, including GE Peterborough and Pebra Plastics. Presented by Dave Wilken. To read related exposure reports, visit our [website here](#).



McIntyre Powder Mining Cluster

Also known as, McIntyre Powder Project. Presented by Janice Martell. To read related exposure and health reports, visit our [website here](#).



Ontario Rubber Workers Cluster Project

OHCOW Hamilton has worked with United Steelworkers Local 677 since 2002 to provide information and objective hygiene and medical assessments to workers from the rubber industry in Kitchener where more than 6000 workers were employed in tire fabrication plants owned by BF Goodrich, Epton Industries, Uniroyal and Michelin, before the last plant closed in 2010.

As a result of renewed activism by members of the Steelworkers Organization of Active Retirees (SOAR) Chapter 80, WSIB committed to review approximately 300 previously denied occupational disease claims using updated scientific information, including 2012 industry findings by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) in late 2018.



In partnership with USW and the OWA, OHCOW then organized a two-day information session in Kitchener in the spring of 2019, with the WSIB in attendance, to allow workers and families to file claims or obtain updates on established claims. This event and subsequent communication generated 185 files, including more than 120 cancer cases.

In 2019/20 OHCOW continued to follow up on these cases, and provided occupational hygiene and medical assessments of possible work-relatedness for any rejected claims where additional information or research had bearing. We also hired an epidemiologist to search, sort and quality assess all recent research on health effects experienced in the rubber industry to support and streamline our medical scientific report writing. We also began a project to develop an industry job exposure matrix, extracting data from case files, union health and safety records and MOL industry history. And have recently connected with researchers from the Occupational Cancer Research Centre (OCRC) to look for parallels in a large historical dataset they manage ([the ODSS](#)) and similar industries.

Retrospective retiree focus groups are planned to fill in exposure knowledge gaps. Communication about the project is still facilitated with a dedicated website: rubberworkersproject.ca.

Collaborative Partnerships



Ontario's Occupational Disease Action Plan (ODAP)

The Ontario Auditor General report, "Health and Safety in the Workplace" released in December 2019, made reference to the WSIB statistical fact that occupational disease fatalities have outnumbered traumatic fatalities in each of the past ten years by nearly three times and supported the plan via the recommendation for its implementation and continued efforts to reduce the incidence and burden of occupational disease.

In its third year, ODAP is the best example of a truly collaborative initiative including the Ministry of Labour, Training & Skills Development (MLTSD-Prevention, Operations and Policy divisions), Health and Safety Associations, Specialized Research Centres (such as the Centre for Research Expertise in Occupational Disease and the Occupational Cancer Research Centre) and the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board, as well as the Ontario Lung Association, Public Health Ontario and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, led jointly by the MLTSD Prevention Office and OHCOW.

ODAP's implementation has primarily been executed by 6 Working Groups; Noise, Allergens & Irritants, Diesel Exhaust Emissions, Intelligence and Decision Support, Electronic Medical Records and Respiratory Hazards*. OHCOW has also initiated Health Networks for Emerging Issues (Nanotechnology, and Electromagnetic Fields*) ad-hoc to the working groups, yet contributing to ODAP. **newly created in 2019/20*

ODAP activities and actions have increased provincial awareness through targeted collaborative communications and knowledge translation sessions.

ODAP Year Three Highlights:

Respiratory Hazards Working Group: Struck in 2019 to align prevention activities with the ministry's Healthy Workers in Healthy Workplaces compliance blitz. Priority exposures grew to include asbestos, silica, and isocyanates, following carcinogens highlighted in Cancer Care Ontario's updated [Burden of Occupational Cancer Report](#) (2019).

- Updated resources were shared through a central repository and a newly developed toolkit posted to each health and safety system partner's website.
- Educational sessions were held regionally and province-wide to reach diverse audiences
- Inventoried resources were uploaded to www.preventoccdisease.ca
- OHCOW hosted a [Respiratory Hazards Webinar](#)
- Occupational Health Regulatory Modernization Amendments (January 1, 2020) to streamline and modernize [Regulation 833 - Control of Exposure to Biological or Chemical Agents](#) and [O. Reg. 490/09 - Designated Substances](#)
- BC's [Silica Control Tool](#) was reviewed
- Planned development of OEL Adjust Tool



Intelligence and Decision Support: Group purpose is to develop and use existing exposure and disease surveillance data (WSIB, OCRC- Occupational Disease Surveillance System (ODSS)) to inform priorities, target prevention efforts and generate research questions

- New program website was launched (<https://www.odsp-ocrc.ca/>) to disseminate ODSS results in 2019
- OCRC hosted the National Occupational Disease Exposure and Surveillance Workshop - Nov 7-8, 2019. Attendees from six provinces and three federal agencies shared best practices ([report](#) available)
- OHCOW created baseline of reported exposure to workplace hazards (including asbestos, wet work, diesel exhaust, solvents, nanoparticles, solar radiation) organized by workplace size and sector, from analysis of a hazard survey conducted in March 2019 to inform prevention efforts.
- CRE-OD / Unity Health project -feasibility of patient-entered occupational data via a tablet at the primary care physician's office. Data analysis is underway

Allergens & Irritants Working Group

- [17 Fact sheets for priority irritants and allergens](#) tailored to sectors were completed by CRE-OD and Health and Safety Associations.
- The Lung Health Foundation (Allergens and Irritants Working Group) is building a new e-module for healthcare professionals to support education on work-related asthma.
- CRE-OD Patch Test Database reviewed for trends and emerging allergens relevant to workplaces.
- CRE-OD /OCRC - Project Advisory Committee participants - study to complete a formal evaluation of the Work-related Asthma Screening Long Version questionnaire in routine practice

Noise Working Group

- Building on 2018 Noise awareness campaign: OHCOW & System partners continue to recognize and promote three international noise recognition days: World Hearing Day, International Noise Awareness Day, and National Hearing Protection Month. Social media messaging occurred on (and in lead up to) each of the recognition days.

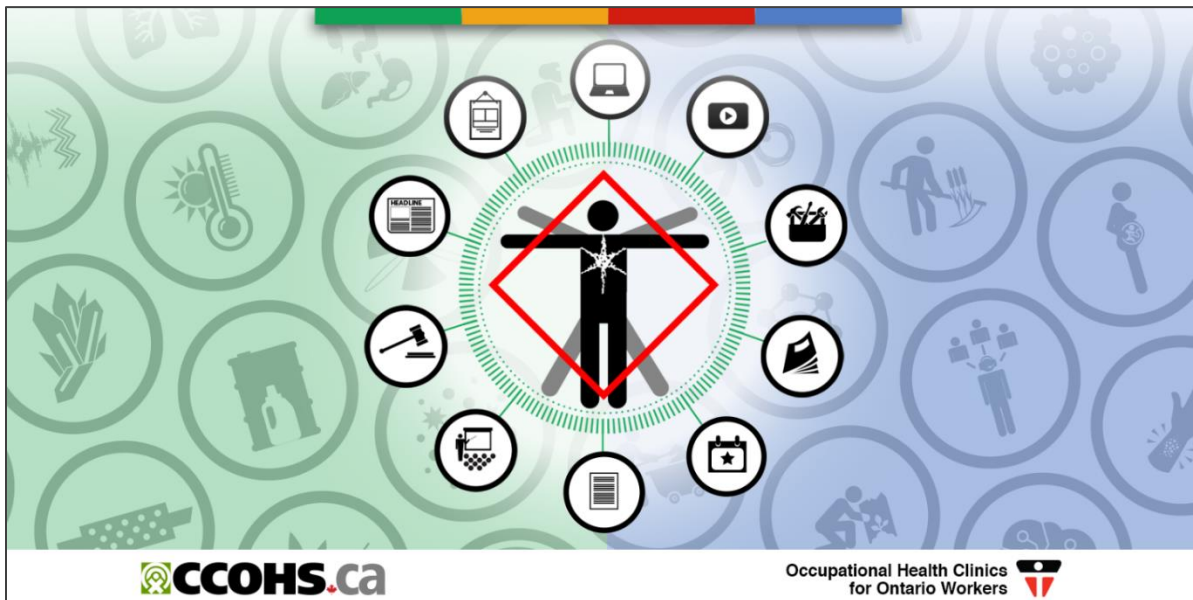


Diesel Exhaust Emissions Working Group

- Occupational Hygiene Association of Ontario (OHAO) newsletter article "Diesel Engine Exhaust and Risk Reduction - A Global Issue a Shared Responsibility" (vol. 42, No. 4 2019).
- Presentation [Mining Diesel Emissions Council](#) (Conference) in October 2019 on diesel emission reduction
- Continued participation on Section 21 - MLRC ventilation and industrial hygiene subcommittee meetings were held to ensure alignment and collaboration in finalizing a hazard management program guideline for mining.

ODAP General- Implementation Team

- Inventory, posting and linking of OHS system resources for Respiratory Hazards for Healthy Workers in Healthy Workplaces campaign (September - December 2019)
- OHCOW launched [Physician/Clinician's Toolkit](#) in collaboration with CCOHS. Additional content is forthcoming with consult from the Physician's Advisory Committee with participation from the Occupational and Environmental Medical Association of Canada (OEMAC), the Occupational Medical Specialists of Canada (OMSOC) and the Community of Practice in Occupational Medicine under the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC).
- 5th Annual Occ-tober Symposium (more info [below](#)) with 120 in-person plus 200+ online participants
- Presentations on ODAP priority exposures included at OHS system and partner conferences throughout year, including: WSPS Partners in Prevention Regional Conferences, Mining Health and Safety Conference, Occupational Hygiene Association of Ontario conference, Mining Diesel Emissions Council and The Lung Health Foundation among others.
- Health Networks- Emerging Issues
 - Developed Nanotechnology Infographic with Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS), October 2019
 - CCOHS Podcast-Nanotechnology & Health, January 2020
 - Electromagnetic Field & Health Network- Created February 2020
- Updated COVID-19 resources & curation March 2020 at www.preventoccddisease.ca



Key Priority: Occupational Disease

OHCOW leads the charge with many initiatives to prevent occupational disease, including [Occupational Disease Cluster Investigations](#) and [ODAP](#) as described above.

Occ-tober: OHCOW's 5th Annual Symposium on Occupational Health & Disease Prevention

This important annual event was held on October 29th and highlighted the latest scientific and clinical information on the link between work and illness, as well as investigating recent evidence for all three levels of prevention: primary (exposure control before impact); secondary (early detection/recognition and treatment/control); and tertiary (work/disease recognition for compensation, further research & future exposure control).

View this playlist of videos as they were livestreamed from the event or individual video links below:



[Recognizing and understanding the impact of Multiple Exposures](#), Dr. Paul Demers, Occupational Cancer Research Centre (OCRC)

[Hazard Assessment & Communication Tools:](#)

- HazardAssess National Survey and App Intro, John Oudyk, OHCOW
- CHAP Chemical Hazard Assessment Protocol, Dr. Thomas Tenkate, Ryerson University
- NIOSH/HSE Exposure/Control Banding, Dr. Kevin Hedges, OHCOW

[Ontario Occupational Disease Action Plan \(ODAP\) Update](#), Val Wolfe & Kimberly O'Connell, OHCOW, Nancy Bradshaw, MOL plus Occ-omplishment: BC Silica Tool, Melanie Gorman Ng, BCCSA

[Emerging OD Lessons from the McIntyre Powder Project:](#)

- Particles, Overload, Lung & Heart Disease, Andrew Zarnke, OHCOW
- A New Lens on the Research, Dr. Tee Guidotti, Occupational & Environmental Health & Medicine

[Cluster Updates: GE, Ventra & Rubber Worker Projects](#), Dave Wilken, OHCOW

[Exploring integrating occupational exposure in the modernization of the Chemicals Management Plan](#), Sarah Vanden Hoven & Kirsten Jacobsen, Health Canada

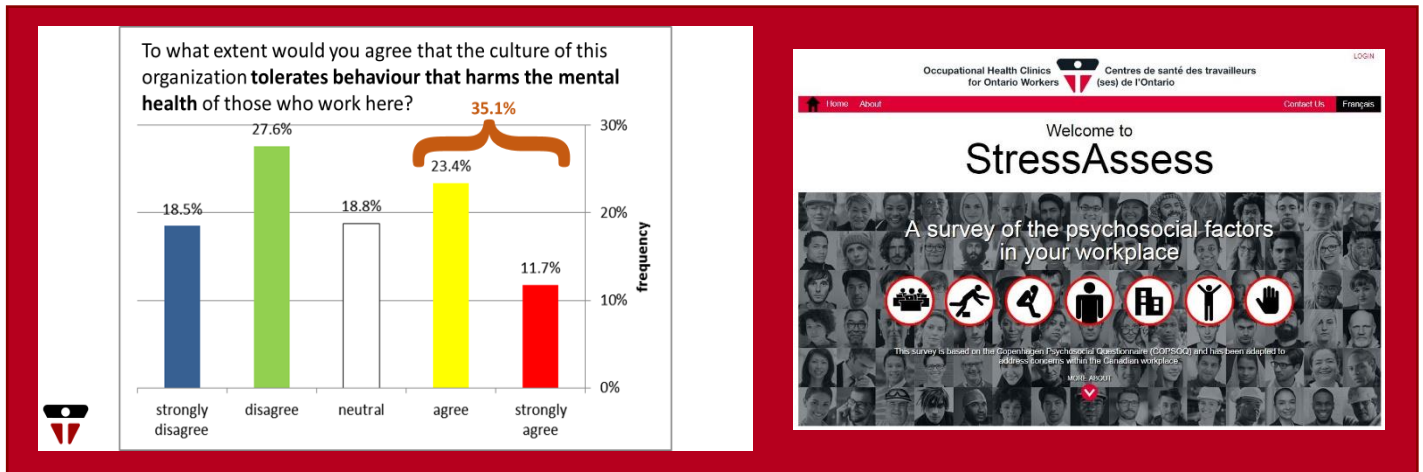
[Getting the picture - Improving Canadian Exposure Data](#), Dr. Hugh Davies, Canadian Workplace Exposure Database & UBC

[Occ-omplishment: Manitoba Exposure Project](#), M. Boileau, SafeWork Manitoba

[Occupational Medicine Insights:](#)

- Atlantic PATH Study: Work & Prostate Cancer, Dr. Anil Adisesh, St. Michael's
- HAVS incidence, causation & prevention, Dr. Ron House, St. Michael's Hospital
- Patch Test Database patterns of interest, Dr. Linn Holness, CREOD

Key Priority: Workplace Mental Health



OHCOW has been a prevention system leader in Workplace Mental Health since 2011, when we worked with academic and labour partners to research survey tools, finding the Copenhagen Psychosocial Questionnaire, piloting it, and building the [Mental Injury Toolkit](#) (which is currently being updated).

In 2016 OHCOW commissioned a national study of the MIT/COPSOQ survey to generate Canadian reference data which was then developed in 2018/19 (with our partners at CCOHS) into a free online survey tool [StressAssess](#) in Personal & Workplace versions with an award-winning design.

The National survey was run again in March 2019 & the website was updated to the more current reference data soon after. As an extension of this project, OHCOW & CCOHS then created App versions of StressAssess on Apple & Android Platforms (featured in our [September newsletter](#)).

The National “EKOS” data was also analyzed into several presentations over the course of 19/20 including for provincial, workplace size and demographic factors, and at a number of professional conferences including CMHA, American Psychiatric Association (in Philadelphia), [COPSOQ International](#) (in Turkey) & our own Mayday Mayday ([see event page below](#)).

In March of 2020, EKOS was again commissioned to run the MIT/COPSOQ questionnaire in comparison with Guarding Minds at Work. An early analysis, in partnership with the Institute for Work & Health (IWH) was shared at Mayday, Mayday 2020.

Mayday, Mayday!

OHCOW’s 3rd Annual Symposium on Workplace Mental Health (WMH), Stress and Injury Prevention, held Monday, May 27, 2019.

View the full playlist of videos from the event here, or individual video links below:

[Opening Remarks](#), Mr. Ron Kelusky, Chief Prevention Officer, Ministry of Labour, Training & Skills Development



[Opportunities for Prevention: Highlights from the new 2019 EKOS Canadian MIT/COPSOQ dataset](#), John Oudyk, OHCOW

[Manitoba Psychological Safety Strategy & "A Hazard is a Hazard" Training Program](#), Geoffrey Thompson, Manitoba Federation of Labour Occupational Health Clinic

[Ontario's Harassment & Violence Regulation Update](#), Christopher Boccinfuso, (MLTSD)

[Mental Injury Prevention through Concussion Recognition and Mitigation](#), Dr. Daryl Stephenson, OHCOW

[Workplace Mental Health Success Strategies from the Trenches](#), Terri Szymanski, OPSEU

Here to Help: WMH Initiatives, Tools and Resources Update from Around the Province including:

- [OHCOW - StressAssess Survey, App and Tools](#)
- [WSPS - new WMH Certification course, ThinkMentalHealth website and WMH Program offerings](#)
- [PSHSA -First Responder & Health Care PTSD + Harassment Prevention Tools](#)
- [CMHA - Mental Health Works Program](#)

	EKOS 2019 (weighted)	EKOS 2016 (weighted)	t-test probability
self-rated health	62	61	0.592121298
burnout	52	51	0.149065251
stress	46	45	0.372904077
sleep troubles	45	44	0.320250446
somatic symptoms	31	29	0.010807828
cognitive symptoms	36	35	0.069578007
all symptoms	42	41	0.075895407

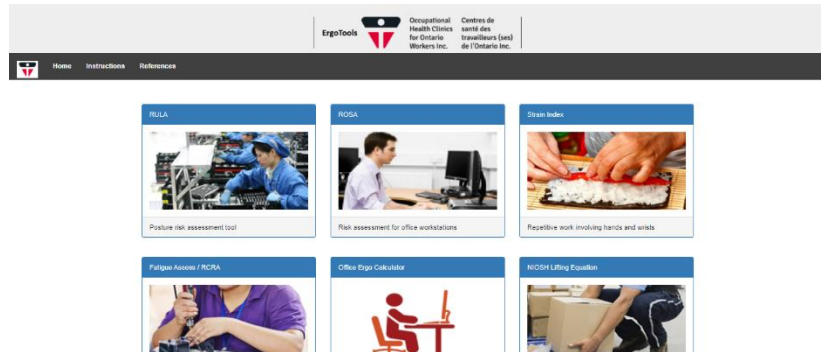
undesired sexual attention	12.9%	↑9% 11.9%	0.194729622
threats of violence	16.9%	16.0%	0.328558764
physical violence	12.2%	↑17% 10.4%	0.014585252
bullying	28.7%	↓8% 31.1%	0.025124338
discrimination	18.2%	19.1%	0.301261112
vicarious offensive behaviours	37.5%	↓9% 41.1%	0.00167411
offensive behaviours	1.27	1.29	0.546069772

EKOS MIT/COPSOQ 2016/2019 National Results compared

Key Priority: Occupational Health

Ergonomics

OHCOV's six Ergonomists keep busy providing education, training and worksite consultations as well as researching and writing reports on the work-relatedness of Musculoskeletal Disorders (MSD), hand-arm vibration syndrome (HAVS) and other physical injury clinical cases. Many [ergonomic resources](#) and [tools](#) are available on our website, and are by far the most visited pages and most frequently downloaded content.



Championing Vulnerability

Migrant Farm Worker Program

OHCOV staff continue to focus work on the occupational health and safety of Ontario migrant agricultural workers through our long-standing Migrant Farm Worker (MFW) Program.

Overview of 2019-2020 Migrant Farm Worker OHS Initiatives



Additional highlights and links:

2019 Migrant Farm Worker Health Forum:

April 26, 2019 - University of Windsor

[Forum program:](#)

[Forum pictures:](#)

Media coverage:

[CTVnews](#) Windsor

[CBC news](#) Windsor

Book Launch and speaker event: Sick and Tired- Health and Safety Inequalities

[Event link](#)

[Link to book](#)

2020 Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Convention:

February 19-20, Niagara Falls, Ontario

[Convention guide](#)



OHCOV staff, James Miuccio, Marilyn Lee-Hannah & Tracey Feener-Snow, greet attendees of the 2019 Migrant Farm Worker Health Forum

Temporary Foreign Agricultural Workers and COVID 19 Safety Considerations

[Document](#)

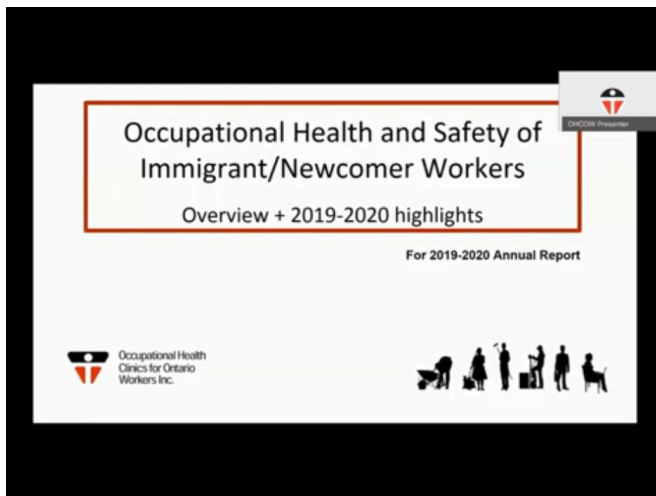
Additional MFW + COVID-19 resources on the [OHCOW website](#).

OHS concerns among Immigrant/ Newcomer workers

Research continues to identify immigrants or newcomers entering the Canadian workforce as a group at a heightened risk to occupational injury and illness.

OHCOW has focused work to increase understanding of the workplace experiences of immigrant/ newcomer workers in Ontario, and to develop effective responses to their OHS needs. In this work we have collaborated with system partners, including the Institute for Work & Health ([IWH](#)) who have conducted multiple studies on this focus.

View videos of initiatives outlined below, as a video playlist [here](#):



Overview Newcomer OHS:

- Introduction and OHS Newcomer Research
- Newcomer worker deaths in the media
- Review of Injured newcomer worker case seen in our Hamilton Clinic

Past OHCOW initiatives in support of newcomer OHS

- Guelph-Newcomer Health and Information Fairs (2014, 2015, 2016)
- OHS Workshops for Newcomer Workers and Settlement Agency Staff (Guelph, Hamilton and Toronto- 2017, 2018)
- OHS Capacity Building among Ontario Settlement Agencies- Provincial Project 2018
- Work, Migration and Health Forum - Toronto, 2018
- OHS System Workplace Vulnerability Working Group- 2018-Present

2019-2020 Newcomer OHS Initiatives

- OHS Capacity Building at Guelph Community Health Centre in Support of Newcomer patients
- [Law society of Ontario Panel: Ethical Issues in Workers' Compensation Law for Lawyers and Paralegals 2019](#) (Newcomer and linguistic minority workers)
- Newcomer OHS Abstract Submission to World Congress on Safety and Health at Work Combined link:
- [IWH Speakers Series: Capacity building and evaluation of OHS training in settlement agencies](#)

RSI PLUS Day 2020

Each year, the OHCOW Sudbury Clinic holds a Repetitive Strain Injury (RSI) Awareness Webinar. With the aid of the eDome at Cambrian College, we were able to broadcast this event over the internet so that anyone could partake regardless of geographic location. On February 28th, OHCOW in partnership with the Sudbury Local Advisory committee presented the 21st Annual RSI+ Day Webinar. This year's theme surrounded the thought-provoking question of "what is a worker's life worth?"

CUPE's, David Chezzi, also OHCOW President and Chair of the Board, offered insight in understanding permanent impairment awards, and Sudbury OHCOW clinic ergonomist, Trevor Schell, presented on cost efficient solutions. Dr. Paul Demers discussed using scientific evidence to drive prevention and compensation. Watch videos from the event [here](#).



Community Engagement

Community Events

Rolly Marentette Award

The OHCOW - Rolly Marentette Award reflects Rolly's leadership, his deep compassion, and his knowledge and understanding of the complexities involved in promoting healthy working environments throughout our community. Rolly made a very important difference in the lives of so many people throughout our community, and through the years, he mentored countless others to follow in his footsteps.

Congratulations to this year's honouree, Nicole Simpson. It was a great pleasure to see her formally recognized at the Gary L. Parent Labour Activist Awards Reception, for significant contributions in efforts to eliminate and prevent occupational disease, while bringing awareness to workplace health and safety within the greater community.



L-R: Brian Hogan, President W&DLC; Nicole Simpson, Unifor 195; Mark Parent, OHCOW; Gary Parent; John Arnold; Ken Lewenza; Sandy Marentette

Mesothelioma, Casale Monferrato

By Alec Farquhar, former OHCOW CEO and organizer of event, presented by Sonia Lal and Maria Vieira

This visit from the Casale Monferrato delegation with Ontario partners was an educational exchange on the medical, educational, and community response to asbestos exposure and disease.

To learn more about these exchanges and the Casale Monferatto story view here:



Spring into ACTION Health and Safety Forum

On April 5, 2019, OHCOW's Eastern Clinic partnered with the Ottawa Labour Council to offer an important inaugural knowledge translation event related to workplace health and safety.

Topics and speakers for the day included:

- Chronic Mental Stress - WSIB Changes and Perspectives by Allen Cramm, Office of the Employer Advisor, and Meaghan Walton-Perreault, Office of the Worker Advisor
- Workplace Mental Health - Where we've been and Where we're going by Terri Szymanski, OHS Officer with OPSEU
- Cannabis and the Canadian Worker by Tracey Feener-Snow, OHN, OHCOW
- Occupational Disease Action Plan by Kevin Hedges, OH, and Kimberly O'Connell, ED and OH, OHCOW
- Nanotechnology and Health by Todd Irick, OH, OHCOW

The day was filled with sharing of important information which sparked meaningful questions and discussions with the audience, who provided ideas and suggestions for future events and collaborations. As well as a segment celebrating OHCOW's 30th Anniversary called, "A Look Back and Ahead".

Visit our [website](#) to view materials from this event.



OHCOW staff and LAC members at Spring into ACTION

24th Annual Petrochem Forum

The 24th Annual Petrochem Forum was held on June 6, 2019 at Lambton College in Sarnia, Ontario. The day, which included presentations on current occupational health and safety topics, was a great success, with approximately 65 participants from all over Southwestern Ontario.

John Millholland, Sarnia LAC Chair was co-chair of the steering committee. Mark Parent, Executive Director of the Southwest region and Kelly Brown, a registered nurse from the Sarnia clinic were also steering committee members. The committee consists of both management and labour members from the petrochemical industries such as Shell Canada, Nova Chemicals and Suncor Energy Inc. Other member organizations include Workplace Safety and Prevention Services, Ministry of Labour, Training & Skills Development, Industrial Education Centre, Stelco, 3M, Unifor, Bruce Power and the Occupational Health Clinics for Ontario Workers.



John Millholland and Dan Curts

Speakers (bios available on our website, [here](#)).

- Alex Paredes, Impact Safety Solutions on "Confined Space Entry Technology."
- Bob Henderson, GfG Inc. on "Gas Detection Sensors."
- An update was given by CRSP on their new initiatives.
- Keynote, Rob Ellis, gave an interactive presentation on "Coaching and Mentoring Millennials."

- During the lunch, Professor John Barker from Lambton College did a short presentation on Lambton College's Health and Safety Program.
- Ron Landry, a provincial co-ordinator for OHSB presents an "Overview of the Ministry of Labour Activities and Initiatives"
- Stacy Blundell, from 3M did a presentation on "Silica's Hidden Hazards."
- Dan Curts, from 3M did a presentation on "Welding Hazards and Solutions".

The diversity of topics presented prompted considerable interest and questions from participants, resulting in a very interactive forum. Each year the steering committee chooses a different charity in the surrounding area to be the beneficiary of the Forum's Financial Donation. This year, a \$1,500 cheque was presented to Rob Ellis for his organization "My Safework".

Kinart Family Dedication

The Sarnia OHCOV Local Advisory Committee (LAC) has dedicated the large conference meeting room at the Sarnia Clinic, naming it in honour of the "Kinart Family."

John Millholland, Sarnia's LAC Chair, officially dedicated the room on May 23rd, 2019 with several Kinart family members, friends, and colleagues in attendance for the celebration. Other dignitaries included Sarnia Mayor, Mike Bradley; Chair of the OHCOV Board, David Chezzi; CEO of OHCOV, Michael Roche; and several members of the "Victims of Chemical Valley Group."

A plaque was unveiled and will be mounted to indicate the new name for the room. The inscription on the plaque reads, "Kinart Family Conference Room" - "Dedicated to the Kinart Family in appreciation for their devotion and commitment to fighting occupational disease." The "Kinart Family Conference Room" will continue to be used by several stakeholder groups and clinic events, as well as Health & Safety training, and educational sessions.



Kinart Family, L-R: Cheryl Orrange, Lisa Kinart, Suzanne Kinart, Sandra Kinart, Shane Kinart, Shari Scharpelli.

Putting Knowledge into Action: OHCOW Hamilton's 30th Anniversary Symposium

Friday, November 22, 2019.

[OHCOW: Celebrating 30 years of OHS Knowledge Activism \(KA\)](#), Leo Gerard, USW International & Alec Farquhar, Asbestos-Free Canada

[Reflections on OHCOW & Applying KA Research in Ontario](#), Andy King, McMaster University Labour Studies + Don Fraser, USW 1005 retired

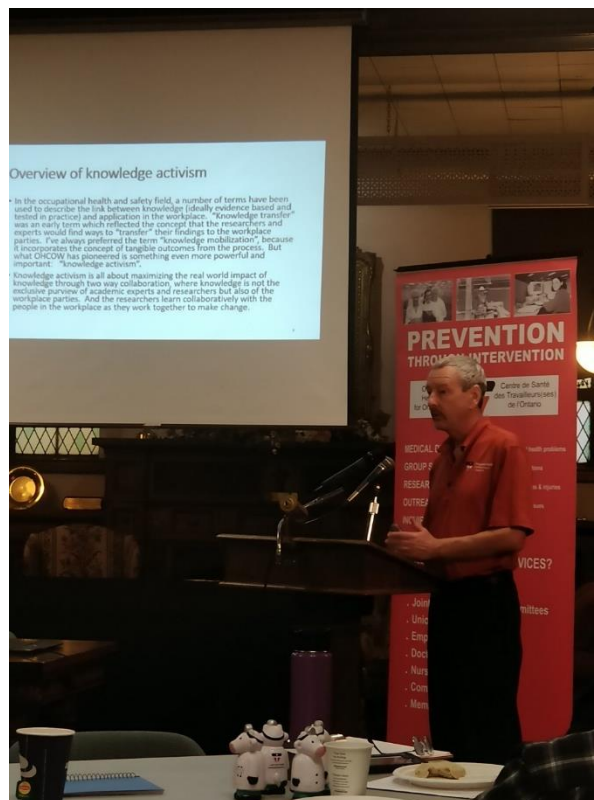
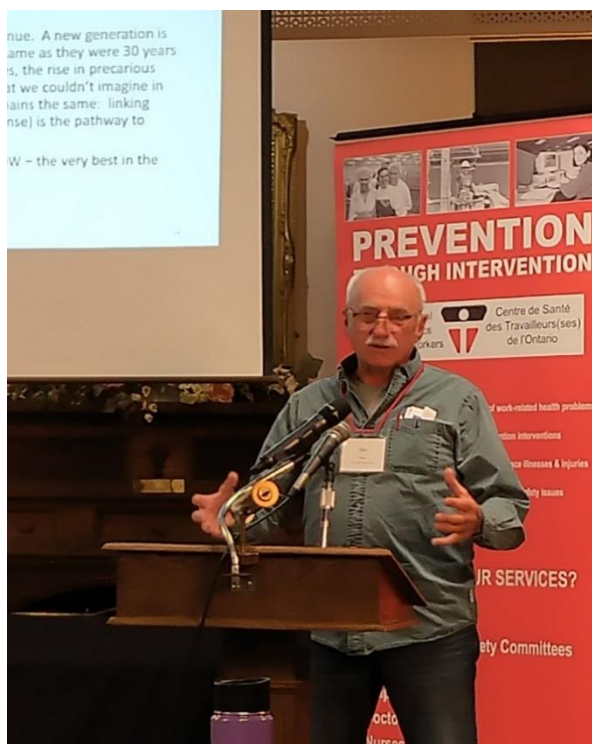
[KA in Action: Case Studies & other Success Stories](#), Terri Szymanski, OPSEU & Alan Hall, Memorial University
[Supplying Knowledge for Activation and Action](#), Susan Freeman, CCOHS

[Tools for KA: Launching HazardAssess, MIT/StressAssess updates + other Apps of interest](#), John Oudyk, OHCOW

Knowledge Activation & Activism Workshop (facilitated by speakers & Clinic staff) sharing challenges, discussing approaches and developing solutions

[Strategic Direction -- OHCOW into the Future](#) (& Cake cutting), Michael Roche, CEO & David Chezzi, OHCOW Board Chair





Clockwise: Don Fraser (1st LAC chair), John Oudyk (longest OHCOV employee) Alec Farquhar (former CEO) and Andy King (former ED) sharing origin & history of OHCOV in provincial & local context at Hamilton Clinic 30th Knowledge Activism event

What is a Worker's Life Worth?

(RSI+ Day panel)

In conjunction with Sudbury's RSI+ Day February 28, 2020, the Sudbury LAC organized and curated a passionate panel discussion with esteemed speakers.

It's easy to place a dollar value on work, but how do we calculate the life of a worker? Health and Safety regulations are weak and poorly enforced. Fines are low, compensation is limited. We do not even know what counts as an occupational death.

What's a worker's life worth? Please see the videos below for a thought-provoking discussion by a panel of Canadian experts including:

JP. Mrochek: WSIB worker advocate for the United Steelworkers Local 6500

Janice Martell: Occupational Health Coordinator at OHCOW and founder of the McIntyre Powder Project

Dr. Paul Demers: Director of the Occupational Cancer Research Center based in Ontario Health (Cancer Care Ontario), and a Professor with Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto

Dr. Steven Bittle: Associate Professor of Criminology at the University of Ottawa

Dr. Bob Barnetson: Professor of Labor Relations at Athabasca University.

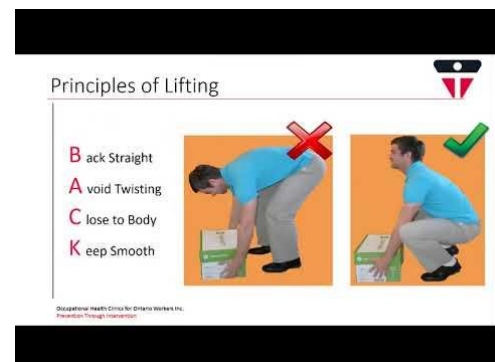


For more information about RSI day speakers, visit the RSI+ Day page [above](#).

Webinars

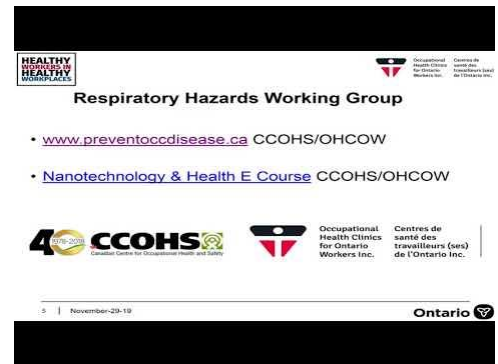
Anatomy of the Back and Common Injuries and Prevention

October was Global Ergonomics Month, a month-long initiative held annually to raise awareness of ergonomics and musculoskeletal disorder (MSD) hazards in workplaces. OHCOW ergonomist, Trevor Schell, presented this webinar on protecting your back" on October 31st.



Respiratory Hazards

OHCOW hosted this webinar on November 29, 2019, coinciding with the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development Healthy Workers in Healthy Workplaces initiative, which focused on the prevention of musculoskeletal disorders and respiratory hazards in health care, construction, industrial and mining sectors. It included tools and updates from the Occupational Disease Action Plan Working Groups; Respiratory Hazards Chair - Kimberly O'Connell, Diesel Exhaust Emissions Chair - Kevin Hedges, and Nanotechnology and Health Network Chair - Todd Irick.



Podcast

Introducing OH-PODS:
Occupational Health Podcasts

Listen and subscribe using [Apple Podcasts](#), [Spotify](#), and [more!](#)

Our first episode is [Office Ergonomics - Getting Started](#).



New App

HazardAssess

Take action to reduce or eliminate health and safety risks in your workplace with the new HazardAssess app, a collaboration between OHCOW & CCOHS. HazardAssess is available free of charge on iOS and Android.

Control workplace hazards today: Audit your health and safety conditions, identify concerns (even snap a pic), and communicate them for follow-up and discussion. HazardAssess also provides resource links with solution ideas. It is the Internal Responsibility System in action!

The data supporting the App and its use are covered by the first speaker in this video from Occ-tober: [Hazard Assessment & Communication Tools:](#)



Download Hazard Assess for free on the [App Store](#) and [Google Play store](#). For more information about this and other OHCOW apps, [click here](#).

Committed to Research and Data

OHCOW has a long history of collaborating with academics and practitioners to investigate, plus searching, analysing and translating medical, scientific and sociological research, to better understand hazards and injury and illness prevention. Recently, OHCOW has also been actively involved in research on [newcomers](#) with the Institute for Work & Health, and [Workplace Mental Health](#) with the COPSOQ International Network as well as the IWH.

Setting Priorities Research Project

OHCOW was a partner in the Setting Priorities Research Project, led by Dr. Thomas Tenkate and Dr. Desre Kramer, which wrapped up in 2019/20. The project included the design, development and testing of two versions of a chemical hazard assessment tool, eCHAP-Basic and eCHAP-Advanced. eCHAP-Basic allows for 10 chemicals to be assessed whereas eCHAP-Advanced allows for an unlimited number. Both tools are Microsoft Excel Spreadsheets - familiar software for many, not requiring internet access to use, plus all of the data is able to be maintained in-house. Both tools (and user guides) are now available on Ryerson's [Chemical Hazard Assessment and Prioritization website](#).

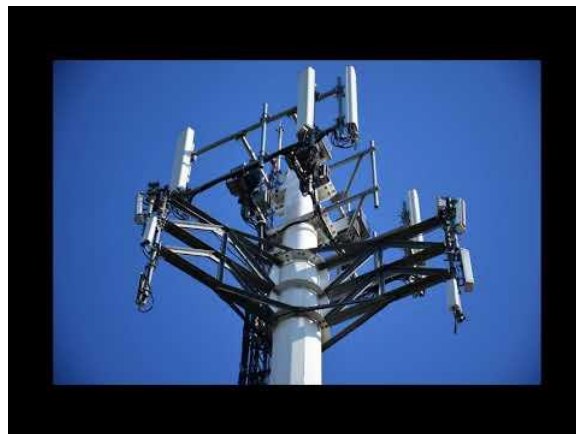
COVID-19 Healthcare Worker Protection

Long a supporter to healthcare unions and workers in the gathering and weighing of evidence (and interpretation of science) with respect to their protection from infectious disease, including during SARS, H1N1, and more recently Ebola, OHCOW Occupational Hygienist and Biostatistician, John Oudyk started studying the SARS CoV-2 virus, and corresponding COVID-19 illness research as soon as it was in the news. He began translating the knowledge gained to stakeholders in February, and published a widely circulated position paper [A Consideration of the rationale provided to downgrade PPE precautions for COVID-19](#) in March, recognizing the risk of airborne transmission and evoking the SARS Commission (Archie Campbell) Report's recommendation of the precautionary principle for worker protection. It was revised later in the month, as the pandemic swelled, evidence grew, research evolved (and healthcare workers became sick) and continues to be updated on a dedicated [webpage](#). Recognizing COVID-19 as a serious occupational disease risk for essential workers, this effort began OHCOW's extensive and multi-faceted leadership on pandemic prevention [precautions](#), [education](#), [resources](#) and [tools](#).



Emerging Issues - Nanotechnology and Electromagnetic Fields and Health Networks

By Todd Irick, presented by Jennifer Skuce



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