

DEFENDING

Our Workplace

Our Environment

Our Health

11th National Health and Safety Conference

October 12 – 14, 2012

Ottawa, Ontario

PROGRAM

CUPE / *Canadian Union
of Public Employees*

Meeting resources and electronic materials can be found at the following link:
<http://cupe.ca/health-and-safety/conference>

Thursday October 11, 2012 - Registration

- 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. **REGISTRATION**
Level 1, Ottawa Convention Centre
- 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. **WELCOME RECEPTION**
Trillium Ballroom
Level 4 - Ottawa Convention Centre

Friday October 12, 2012 - Day 1

- 7:00 – 9:00 a.m. **REGISTRATION**
Level 1, Ottawa Convention Centre
- 9:00 – 10:30 a.m. **Opening Plenary**
Ottawa Salon – Level 2
- Welcome and Introductions**
Thomas Louttit, Elder - Aboriginal greeting
Fred Hahn, President, CUPE Ontario
Moment of silence
Equality statement
Code of conduct
Agenda review
- Opening remarks:** Paul Moist – National President, CUPE
- 10:30 – 10:45 a.m. *BREAK*
- 10:45 – 12 noon **Keynote speaker:** *Dr. Linda Rae Murray*
Dr. Murray has been an activist for health and safety and social justice for decades. Drawing on this personal experience and stories, she will discuss the struggles of the labour movement and its allies that resulted in the health and safety laws that we have today. Dr. Murray will highlight why healthy and safe workplace should be considered a basic human right and will discuss the importance of ongoing activism to maintain and advance laws and rights we have fought for and the results of what inaction and a lethargic union movement will lead to.
- 12 noon – 1:30 p.m. **LUNCH**
- 1:30 – 5:00 p.m. **Workshops**
- 5:00 p.m. **Adjournment**

Saturday October 13, 2012 - Day 2

9:00 – 9:15 a.m.	Agenda overview
9:15 – 10:15 a.m.	Celebrating our Successes CUPE health and safety activists have been on the front line fighting for workers' rights for decades. We don't take enough time to pause and honour those who have succeeded in making our workplaces healthier and safer. This session will do just that; it will look back on some of the groundbreaking events from the past and it will highlight new activists who are blazing new trails for the benefit of their brothers and sisters. We will hear first-hand accounts of what it takes to be an activist. We will hear stories of dedication, conviction and commitment that will inspire new activists and new victories. And we'll take the time to say thank you to rank and file CUPE members who work on behalf of all CUPE members.
10:15 – 10:30 a.m.	<i>BREAK</i>
10:30 – 12 noon	<u>TOWN HALL</u> Moderator: Judy Rebick Panel discussion: Facing new challenges and seizing opportunities – work organization, psychosocial health, environmental health challenges, workplaces and communities Karen Messing Professor, Interdisciplinary Research Centre on Biology, Health, Society and Environment, Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM) Dr. Linda Rae Murray Chief Medical Officer Cook County Department of Public Health, IL To be confirmed
12 noon – 1:30 p.m.	LUNCH
1:30 – 5:00 p.m.	Workshops
5:00 p.m.	Adjournment
7:00 – 10:00 p.m.	SOCIAL EVENT Pearson Ballroom – Lord Elgin Hotel

Sunday October 14, 2012 - Day 3

- 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. **Strategy meetings: *Working Together in our Communities***
Every jurisdiction has unique health and safety issues and legislation.
The final workshop of the conference will give participants an opportunity to develop strategies and plan actions that can be implemented across their province to improve the health and safety of all CUPE members.
- 11:00 – 11:15 a.m. *BREAK*
- 11:15 – 1:00 p.m. **Closing Plenary**
Closing remarks: Charles Fleury, National Secretary-Treasurer
- 1:00 p.m. **Adjournment**

Conference Workshops

1. HIT THE REFRESH BUTTON – ACTIVATE OUR H&S RIGHTS!

CUPE members have been on the front line of health and safety victories for decades. But recently, new barriers to our success have been thrown up. Governments, for example, often don't enforce existing laws. Employers take this as a cue to ignore their responsibility to provide a healthy and safe workplace. And the arena of workplace health is often overrun by a mishmash of consultants, health and safety associations and others selling schemes, many of which disregard workers' expertise. The Refresh workshop will uncloud the murky issues that sometimes bog down health and safety activism. CUPE members will focus squarely on strategies to renew our trade union activism and pledge our commitment to healthier CUPE workplaces.

2. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH / ENVIRONMENTAL WORKPLACE ACTION

There is no question that today's pressing environmental issues – such as climate change, water and air quality, chemical contamination and others – have direct effects on workers' health. The planet, like workers, is threatened and not nearly as healthy as it should and could be. The signs are all around us that we need to treat the environment that sustains our work and our way of life more justly and responsibly. This workshop will provide an overview of environmental issues and their impacts on our communities and worker health. It will also explore ways to take action to make our workplaces healthier, more sustainable, and to reduce the environmental impact of the work we do.

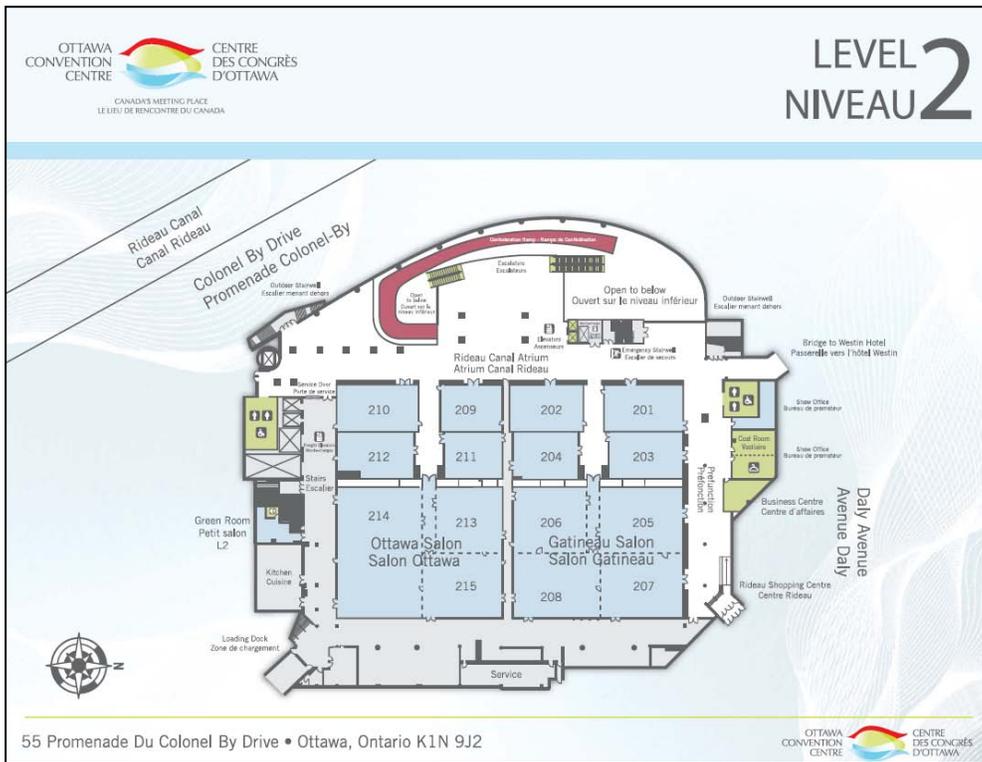
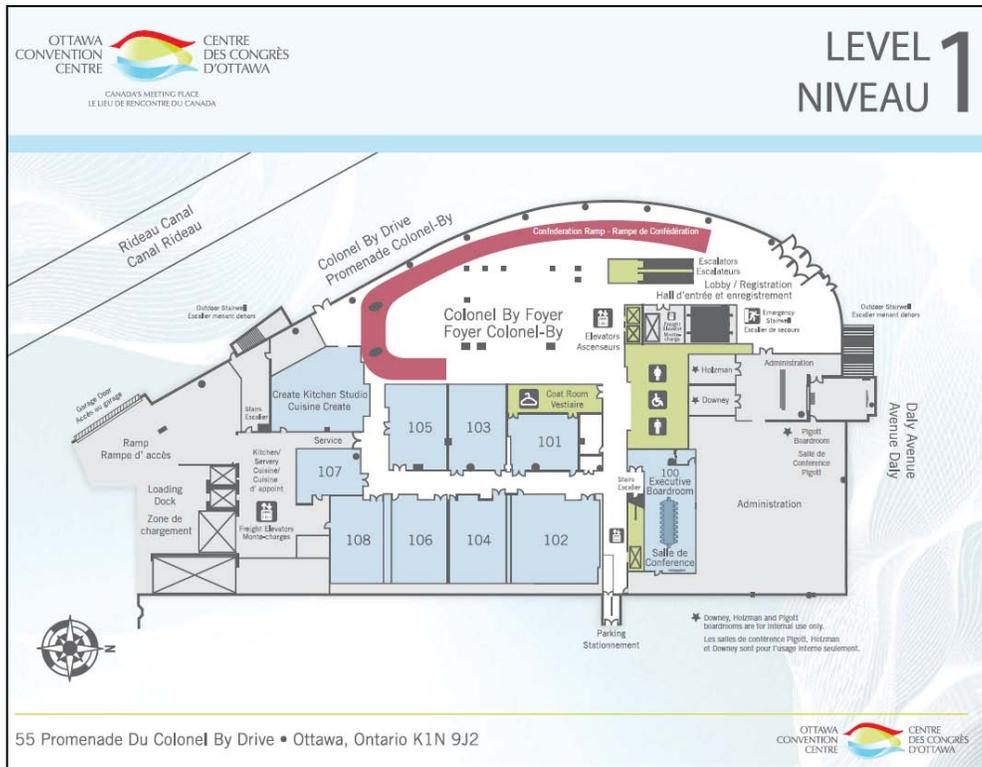
3. WOMEN AND WORK HAZARDS: RECOGNIZING THE RISKS AND DEVELOPING A HEALTHY APPROACH TO WOMEN'S WORK

Employers and governments are reluctant to widen the definitions of occupational health and safety to include concerns specific to women in the workforce. As a result, there has been little progress in the prevention of women's occupational health and safety problems. Like their male colleagues, CUPE women experience many health problems related to their work but some issues such as musculoskeletal injuries, sexual and sexist harassment, job demands incompatible with pregnancy, nursing, and family life affect women profoundly. All conference delegates are encouraged to attend this workshop. Participants will help to build understanding about the impact of the physical and social work environment on women's health, and ways to influence research, policy, and practice to reduce the health disparities related to gender.

4. PSYCHOSOCIAL AND MENTAL HEALTH AND WORK ORGANIZATION

New forms of work, job insecurity, work intensification, high demands, violence and a resulting poor work-life balance are resulting in psychosocial and mental health problems in CUPE workplaces. Employers claiming to be concerned with workers' mental health are introducing wellness programs and continuous improvement schemes. They are also bringing ill-equipped consultants into CUPE workplaces to use "tools" that profile workers to "psychologically fit" them into appropriate jobs. This workshop will examine the flaws in the new array of so-called tools and systems that are being brought into our workplaces. It will focus on the workplace as the cause of mental health issues, and not the individual. Participants will discuss strategies and actions that will actually help make workplaces psychologically healthier and safer.

Ottawa Convention Centre Floor Plan



Additional Information for Conference Participants

Session Locations

All conference sessions will take place at the Ottawa Convention Centre. The back of your name badge lists your assigned workshops and conference rooms.

Plenary Sessions

There will be opening plenary sessions on Friday October 12 and Saturday October 13 starting at 9:00 a.m. The plenaries are an integral part of the conference and all participants are encouraged to attend.

Meals

Meals are not provided as part of the conference. The Rideau Centre, which can be accessed through the second floor of the convention centre, has several restaurants as well as a food court.

Scents

In order to make the conference accessible to individuals with chemical sensitivities, we ask that all delegates attending the conference refrain from using scented products.

Smoking

All conference sessions and receptions are non-smoking. If you wish to smoke, we ask that you do so in designated areas. The smoking area at the Ottawa Convention Centre is located on Daly Street, approximately 9 metres from the main entrance. Delegates are also advised that the City of Ottawa has recently adopted amendments to its outdoor smoking by-laws. The following spaces are now smoke-free:

- All outdoor areas on municipal properties including parks, playgrounds, beaches, sports fields, and outdoor areas around City facilities
- ByWard and Parkdale Market stands
- Outdoor restaurant, bar, and food premise patios

Internet Café

Conference delegates are invited to visit the Internet Café during breaks, lunch and after workshops. We will have a number of computers for use to surf cupe.ca, check your e-mail and do some health and safety research.

Interpretation Devices

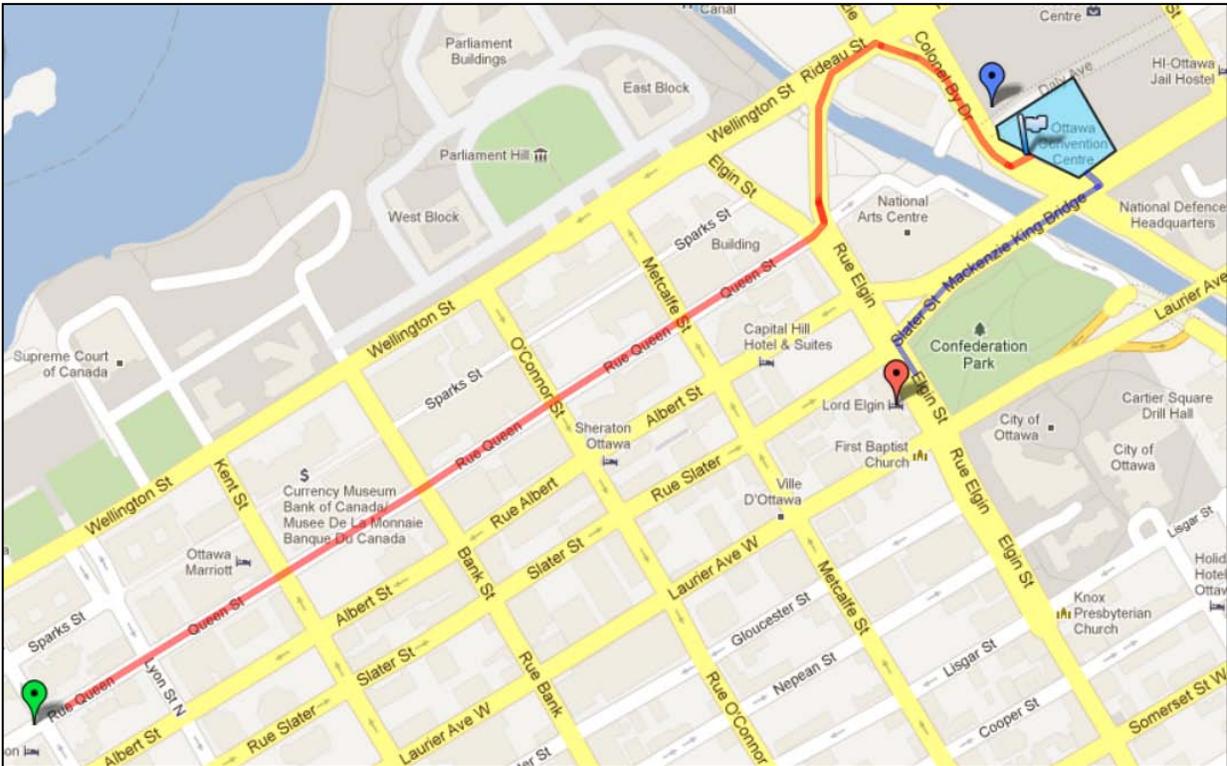
Delegates requiring simultaneous interpretation will require the use of translation devices, which can be obtained from the AVW Tel Av booth, located on Level 2. Government-issued identification is required when borrowing translation devices.

Be a green conference delegate

We can all reduce our impact on the environment while in Ottawa. Here are some suggestions for reducing your carbon footprint while attending the conference:

- Reduce waste and recycle as much material as possible.
- Eat local food, cut back your food waste and avoid using disposable containers and cutlery.
- Drink tap water, not bottled water.
- Carry and use a travel mug for drinking coffee, tea, etc.
- Walk to the convention centre from your hotel rather than taking a taxi. The convention centre can be reached on foot within twenty minutes or so from most hotels where delegates will be staying.
- Minimize and conserve your electricity use. Turn computers, cell phones, handheld devices and other electronic devices off when not in use.
- Recycle your lanyard at the end of the conference in the receptacles provided.

Ottawa Walking Map



 The National Hotel & Suites (1.7 km to OCC)
361 Queen Street
Ottawa, ON K1R 7X9
(613) 238-6000

 Lord Elgin Hotel (0.65 km to OCC)
100 Elgin Street
Ottawa, ON K1P 5K8
(613) 235-3333

 The Westin Ottawa (on-site)
11 Colonel By Drive
Ottawa, ON K1N 9H4
(613) 560-7000