

CEIU Ontario Regional Health, Safety and Security Committee  
Ontario Region President's Conference  
October 3-7, 2022

Members as of January, 2022:

- Laura Light-Morrow - Chair
- Emily Green - Co-Chair
- Danielle Lozon
- Margaret Peck
- Kavita Rao
- Cathy Suklje

Members as of July, 2022:

- Danielle Lozon - A/Co-Chair
- Cathy Suklje - A/Co-Chair
- Margaret Peck
- Kavita Rao

We started 2022 with two new members and shared enthusiasm for working together on initiatives to improve health and safety in the workplace. Despite the challenges we experienced throughout the year, our committee took steps toward our shared goals of strengthening membership engagement and educating members on violence in the workplace. In July, our committee chair and co-chair resigned their positions. We thank our Sisters Laura Light-Morrow and Emily Green for their contributions and hard work. In the interim, Danielle Lozon and Cathy Suklje are acting as Co-Chairs until the end of the year wherein an internal election will be held. With the election of new members, we can continue the work we began and expand on the action items we've established.

In the 2022, our committee met 6 times. We reviewed and discussed our committee's mandate within our bylaws in an effort to better understand our roles and responsibilities. We updated a contact list for offices throughout Ontario, including current executives and health and safety representatives in order to establish communication between our committee and local representatives. We identified the training requirements to act as health and safety representatives as well as educating them on their roles in union-appointed positions. With this information, we intend to make our committee members approachable through correspondence and networking to become a valued resource to local health and safety representatives in responding to workplace concerns.

Throughout the year we took advantage of educational opportunities that would further our understanding of health and safety. Scott McIntosh, the Employee Co-Chair of the Regional Health and Safety Advisory Committee, delivered a five hour in depth training detailing the Canada Labour Code to our committee. This furthered our knowledge on important topics such as the right to refuse dangerous work. We aim to tailor this presentation to local executives and health and safety representatives, in addition to a streamlined version for membership. We individually took several courses through the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS). As we learned a lot from these courses, we feel that they would be an excellent educational resource for members and created posters in order to encourage participation. We plan to incentivize members to take these free courses by offering a raffle prize such as a Visa or Mastercard gift card.

Committee member Kavita Rao co-facilitated a presentation overviewing health and safety topics at the Toronto/GTA District Conference with Scott McIntosh in 2022. They reviewed topics under the Canada Labour Code to educate local union executives on the importance of health and safety. For Safety and Health week 2022, she also did “Lunch and learn” presentation in the workplace on the topic of Workplace Violence and First Aid and provided attendees with educational resources. On the Day of Mourning for Workers held on April 28, 2022, we circulated resources including posters and stickers from WSIB to remember workers who died while on duty. Posters were displayed in workplaces through the GTA which raised awareness on how workplace tragedies have touched peoples' lives.

As members of the Regional Health and Safety Advisory Committee, we escalated safety-related issues in the workplace to the employer at our scheduled meetings and will continue to do so as many of us return to the physical workplace while COVID-19 remains a concern. We continue to take advantage of educational opportunities offered through the union and/or the employer, and will be attending a Joint Learning Program (JLP) course in the near future on training for Occupational Health and Safety Committees. We look forward to strengthening our relationships with membership, local executives and health and safety representatives, as well as management through education and honest dialogue.