



Public Service Alliance of Canada
Alliance de la Fonction publique du Canada

2019 PSAC NATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY CONFERENCE

“MOBILIZE FOR HEALTHIER, SAFER AND RESPECTFUL WORKPLACES”

MAY 8, 2019

To: PSAC Locals

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: (for both delegates and observers)	Friday, June 7, 2019 4:00 p.m. EST
RESOLUTIONS SUBMISSION DEADLINE:	Friday, June 7, 2019 4:00 p.m. EST
CONFERENCE DATES:	November 29 to December 1, 2019
CONFERENCE LOCATION:	Fairmont The Queen Elizabeth Hotel, 900 René-Lévesque Blvd., West, Montréal, Québec

**INTERPRETATION WILL BE PROVIDED IN THREE LANGUAGES
(English, French, Inuktitut)**

This Registration Package includes the following:

- Introduction/Callout Letter
- Call for Resolutions

I am pleased to be sending you this Registration package for the **2019 PSAC National Health and Safety Conference**, which will be held **November 29 to December 1, 2019** at Fairmont The Queen Elizabeth Hotel in Montréal, Québec under the theme “**Mobilize for Healthier, Safer and Respectful Workplaces.**”

I encourage you to personally inform the members of both Policy Health and Safety Committees and/or Workplace Health and Safety Committees, Health and Safety Representatives, and/or Health and Safety activists in your Local to ensure they are made aware of this conference. Bulletin boards may not always be accessible and additional outreach is very important.

This registration package is available upon request in alternative format through the PSAC Programs Section by contacting us at (613) 560-5457.

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

- Engage members to take action, from ideas and strategies to tangible action.
- Raise awareness of new legislative, policy and regulatory initiatives for harassment bullying and violence as well as psychosocial factors.
- Increase involvement and knowledge regarding workers' rights and highlight other redress mechanisms available to workers.
- Examine the unions role and the impacts of addictions and mental health in the context of cannabis legalization and the opiate crisis.
- Connect environmental issues with their impacts on workplaces and communities.

Workshops

1. **Your “Right to Participate” in hazard investigations and how to establish workplace strategies to fix problems (introductory)**

This workshop will deal with the role of a health and safety representative or an employee member on a joint health and safety committee in workplace inspections and investigations. The fundamental “Right to Participate” as well as the “Right to Refuse” dangerous work will be explored using case studies (e.g. asbestos) which emphasize the importance of worker involvement in workplace investigations. The role of government inspectors, and involvement by outside parties who may have technical expertise, will be discussed. Participants will also discuss strategies for documenting health and safety concerns, making recommendations, ways to effectively communicate with the employer and share their experiences on workplace investigations and the right to refuse situations.

2. **Managing Workplace Stress and Overload**

As employers pull back resources, they expect workers to do more with less. This workshop will discuss how we can mobilize and try to change a workplace culture that ignores the damaging impact of excessive stress and unreasonable workloads. Participants will discuss the cause and effects of overwork, and strategies to overcome the ever increasing workload that is not just impacting our health at work, but the relationship we have outside of work.

3. **Strategies for Preventing Workplace Violence (including Domestic Violence)**

This workshop will provide an overview of the expanding concept of workplace violence (physical violence, psychological violence, bullying, harassment and domestic violence). Strategies to respond to situations involving violence in their workplaces, new recourses, differences and similarities between jurisdictions will be discussed. Participants will explore what local unions can do to protect members from and assist members affected by all forms of violence.

Focus Group

Delegates will participate in a focus group that explores timely issues including impairment at work, cannabis, opiates, medical use, medical monitoring. Participants will be able to respond to these issues as they arise in the

workplace (e.g. employer policies and practices), as well as, how health and safety protections intersect with human rights and privacy rights.

PARTICIPANTS

1. Delegates

PSAC members in good standing may apply to be a delegate to this Conference. Priority will be given to those union activists who are members of Policy Health and Safety Committees, Workplace Health and Safety Committees, Health and Safety Representatives for their workplaces, or their locals/branches. The selection of delegates will take into account union and health and safety activism, as well as representation (Region, Component, language, gender, youth and other equity group representation).

Delegates will be selected by their respective Regions and Components. The delegates will be entitled to full voice and vote during the conference, including the resolutions.

Funding for Delegates:

Delegate costs to the 2019 PSAC National Health and Safety Conference will be fully covered as per the 2003 PSAC Triennial Convention decision and PSAC Travel Directive. Costs covered are as follows:

- travel costs, including ground transportation;
- hotel accommodation costs at Fairmont The Queen Elizabeth;
- loss of salary;
- per diem for meals;
- incidental costs;
- child care as per the Family Care Policy;
- costs related to accessibility requirements.

2. Observers

PSAC members in good standing may also attend the Conference as observers; however, observers will be responsible for all costs associated with their participation, including:

- loss of salary and meals;
- hotel and travel arrangements;
- incidental costs;
- the conference registration fee of \$200;
- any additional accessibility needs and childcare arrangements (subject to meeting deadline requirements).

Please note that the number of observers will be limited to the space available at the Conference. They will have voice only during the discussion period after the panel presentations. They may attend workshops, if space permits, but we may not be able to accommodate their 1st option. **Observers do not have the right to voice or vote during the resolutions debate.**

3. Guests

Members of the PSAC National Board of Directors are eligible to attend the Conference as guests.

SELECTION OF DELEGATES AND OBSERVERS

If you are selected as a delegate to this conference, you will be advised by email by end of August 2019. Observers will be advised at a later date.

DEADLINE TO APPLY IS:
June 7, 2019, 4:00 p.m. EST

For further information or assistance:

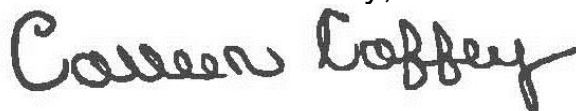
- Call (613) 560-5457. Leave a message and someone will get back to you within 24 working hours.
- You may also contact the Programs Section by email at conferences@psac-afpc.com.
- The fax number is (613) 236-9402.

We look forward to the upcoming 2019 PSAC National Health and Safety Conference and see it as an opportunity for our members to continue the important work of maintaining and improving the militancy and activism of the Union in the struggle to improve the health and safety and working conditions of all PSAC members.

Please consult the PSAC web site (www.psaunion.ca) periodically as background conference material will be posted as soon as it becomes available.

Thank you for your cooperation and support.

In Solidarity,



Colleen Coffey
AEC Officer responsible for the
2019 PSAC National Health and Safety Conference

CC: National Board of Directors
Component National Officers and Head Offices
Regional Offices
Area Councils
National Human Rights Committee (NHRC)
National Indigenous Peoples' Circle (NIPC)
Regional Committees
Regional Council Members
PSAC Management Team