



## Message from the Chair:

Welcome to Safe Communities Ottawa. I have been very proud to serve as the Chair of SCO and it has been a pleasure to work with a dedicated Board of Directors, Health and Safety professionals in the community and a diverse group of employers and community stakeholders. This year, we continued to work with our partners to provide effective and innovative programs to advance workplace health and safety in our community.

In 2009,

- 3245 Ottawa area students completed *Passport to Safety* – giving them much needed information and awareness to stay safe at work;
- 19 Ottawa area employers made *Passport to Safety* a condition of hire for their young workers;
- Oct 7, 2009 was proclaimed to be “*Safe Communities Day in Ottawa*” by Mayor Larry O’Brien at our national Safe Communities Day celebration;
- 2871 Ottawa school children participated in *Swim to Survive* – a program geared to ensure their survival should they fall into water;
- 29 Ottawa area businesses graduated from the *Safe Communities Incentive Program (SCIP)*.

These key achievements would not have been possible without the dedication and expertise provided by our new Executive Director, Sue McLaren and our rejuvenated Board of Directors.

We are grateful to our sponsors, particularly Hydro Ottawa, our founding sponsor, who provided financial and leadership support to ensure that we meet our objectives and strive for excellence in what we do.

Founded in December 2003, Safe Communities Ottawa (SCO) is a registered not-for-profit charity that is dedicated to promoting health and safety awareness in the City of Ottawa. SCO advocates that all injuries are predictable and preventable. We work with partners to enhance existing programs and resources to improve the lives of people throughout our community.

### Our Mission is Simple

To help make Ottawa a leading community of safe workplaces

### Our Goals are Attainable

1. To increase awareness and commitment for health and safety in Ottawa
2. Prevent serious workplace injuries and illnesses, especially to youth
3. Ensure the long term growth and sustainability of SCO

### Our Commitment

Making Ottawa safe, one day, one person and one workplace at a time.



Sandra Lawson  
Chair, Safe Communities Ottawa

Meet our Team:

**Chair:**

Sandra Lawson: has been with the Ontario Ministry of Labour (MOL) since January 2000 and has been Director for Eastern Regions Operations Division since September 2007. Sandra has had many opportunities with MOL. Sandra holds undergraduate degrees in Agricultural Science and in Education and an executive MBA from the University of Ottawa.

**Executive Director:**

Sue McLaren: is a registered nurse, with a Diploma in Occupational Health Nursing. She holds her Canadian Certification in Occupational Health Nursing and is currently working on her designation as a Certified Health and Safety Consultant through the Canadian Society of Safety Engineering. Sue assumed the role of Executive Director with SCO in May 2009.

**Board of Directors:**

Alison Beer: Alison has been with SCO since its inception and holds the position of treasurer. Alison holds a degree in microbiology and is currently a health and safety consultant with OSSA.

Christine Roy: Christine provides independent human resources consulting services to private and public sector employers. Christine has worked for 20 years in Human Resources and is a graduate of the University of Ottawa.

Terry Frederick: is the Director of Business Development with the United Way Ottawa. He teaches at Algonquin College in the School of Business in Ottawa and is a graduate of Carleton University, Hon BA.

Suzanne Yelle: is Senior Manager within Toronto Hydro's Generation Group. She is the President and CEO of Compustock Services, a privately owned Electrical Engineering consulting firm. Suzanne holds a Bachelor of Science and Engineering degree from the University of Western Ontario and is a registered Professional Engineer in Ontario and in Québec.

## What we do; Our Programs/Activities and Initiatives:



### Safe Communities Incentive Program:

The Safe Communities Incentive Program (SCIP) is a Workplace Safety and Insurance program that promotes safety in the workplace and can reduce insurance premium costs for small to medium sized businesses. Participating firms gain access to health and safety training programs, resources, and health and safety experts to help them create better, safer workplaces.

Since 1997, more than 6000 firms have participated in SCIP with rebates totaling over 15 million dollars in Ontario. To date, in Ottawa alone, 400 firms have graduated from SCIP and rebates in Ottawa are in excess of \$450,000.00.

In 2009, SCO delivered 3 SCIP training sessions to 29 local employers. In the spring of 2009, 19 firms received \$38,000 in WSIB rebates. At the time of this report the fall rebates have not been calculated however it is estimated that this group of 10 employers will receive in excess of \$60,000 in WSIB rebates.

It's important for us to publicly recognize people who are making significant efforts to enhance the safety of workplaces in our community.



WSIB SCIP Coordinator Vaughn Smith with SCIP participants Frankie Perrault and Jason Carlston during the spring 2009 class.

SCIP promotes safety in the workplace and can reduce insurance premium costs for small – medium sized businesses. Participating firms gain access to health and safety training programs, resources, and health and safety experts to help them create better, safer workplaces



2009 Spring SCIP graduates celebrate with \$38,000.00 in WSIB rebates.

Firms can receive a fixed 5% rebate on their WSIB insurance premiums upon successful completion of SCIP. 2009 Spring SCIP graduates celebrate with \$38,000 in WSIB rebates

We are fortunate to have health and safety professionals and champions that are committed to creating a city of healthy and safe workplaces and who freely give of their time to deliver this training. In Ottawa, we added 3 facilitators to our group of 28 who deliver professional training to local employers.



SCIP Facilitators receive recognition plaques

SCIP training includes:

- Leadership in health and safety
- The internal responsibility system
- Hazard identification and assessment
- Hazard controls and emergency response
- Building a health and safety program
- Return to work and claims management

Our SCIP facilitators are health and safety champions who have the power to influence health and safety policies, procedures and practices and who uses this influence to create a culture of safety.

## New Employer Health and Safety Program:

Ottawa was extremely fortunate to be considered in providing input into the development and as a site to test the WSIB “New Employer Health and Safety Program”. Geared at new employers, this 6 hour course, introduced the participants to Health and Safety legislation, hazard recognition and control. Thirty-four newly registered businesses participated in this program in the fall of 2009.

## Passport to Safety:

Passport to Safety is a unique, not-for-profit, cross-Canada catalyst for change intended to help eliminate needless injuries and preventable deaths of Canadians. Four on-line Passport to safety programs are available to test people of all ages. These programs provide knowledge of the basics to prevent injuries and establish a safety foundation upon which employers build job specific health and safety training.

Since 2004, 10,855 students in Ottawa have successfully completed their passport to safety “tests”, 3245 of these tests were completed in 2009. The Ottawa Catholic School Board has made “Passport to Safety” part of their curriculum in the mandatory careers course at the grade 10 level in all 15 high schools. They are true champions as they reach out to students to demonstrate that workplace safety is important.

## Passport to Safety Employers:

All employers need to ensure that their employees go home healthy and safe at the end of the work day. Employers who register and administer “Passport to Safety” are considered to be a “Passport to Safety Employer”. They have demonstrated that they want their students, or any worker for that matter, to understand general health and safety principles. You will be recognized for your commitment to seeing a world in which all workers return home healthy and safe at the end of each day.

In 2009, there were 9 Passport to Safety Employers who supported Passport to Safety.



In 2009, 3245 students completed this innovative national youth health and safety test and transcript program that verifies youth have a basic understanding of what they need to know to protect them from injury at work

Hydro Ottawa, Ministry of Labour and Ottawa University receive recognition for being a Passport to Safety Employer

## Rob Ellis Simulcast:

The Ottawa Catholic School Board are true champions of Health and Safety. By hosting week long health and safety initiatives they are telling their students that health and safety is a priority. SCO is part of the planning committee and a major sponsor of this event. Beginning with an evening event employers, parents, and friends are invited to view the world of health and safety through co-op student's eyes. Rob Ellis speaks to those present along with health and safety leaders in the community to address questions. During the simulcast Rob talks about his son David who died in a workplace accident and talks about the impact of this tragedy on his family, David's friends, his school and his community. This presentation will touch 1000's of students annually and will affect change and shift the culture to one of safety.

## Safe Communities Ottawa Day:

The first Wednesday of October each year has been declared Safe Communities Canada Day on a national level. This year we were proud to have had Mayor Larry O'Brien's office officially declared October 7, 2009 as Safe Communities Day in Ottawa. As the nation's capital, Ottawa is making a statement as to how seriously they take the safety of their residents, schools and workplaces. The ability to have October 7, 2009 proclaimed as "Safe Communities Day" in Ottawa speaks volume to the commitment to make our city the safest city in which to live, learn, work and play.



On hand to present the proclamation was Superintendent Charles Bordeleau of the Ottawa Police Service.

A safety culture revolution doesn't happen overnight. It takes time and a whole lot of effort from many people. Safe Communities Ottawa decided that Safe Communities Day celebrations should focus on recognition. It was a chance to recognize employers, SCIP graduates, SCIP facilitators and individuals who have made a commitment to promoting health and safety in our community. These leaders walk the talk everyday.

## Individual Recognition Awards:



Sandra Lawson with Pat Lamanna



Sue McLaren with Kim Wilde-Lewis

## SCIP Peer Network:

Ongoing education, learning and networking is an important part of the continuous learning and improvement process for employers. With the SCIP Peer Networking, SCO was able to offer training on a variety of items utilizing expertise in the community. This year we were able to offer training on: Slips/Trips and Falls, Internal Responsibility System review and included a presentation from the Office of the Employer Advisor

## Swim to Survive:

Drowning is the leading cause of injury related deaths for Canadian children yet many children do not know how to swim. Teaching children to swim before they are teens is an important strategy to decrease this adversity. This is a skill that saves lives!

Swimming ability is a fundamental requirement in any meaningful attempt to eliminate drowning. Safe Communities Ottawa and the City of Ottawa are proud partners in drowning prevention initiative which provided ongoing opportunities to children by providing learn to swim activities and education on how to stay safe in and around water. Since 2007, more than 6000 students have participated in this program. For the 2008/09 school year 2871 students have participated in the program.

<b>Year</b>	<b># of children participants</b>
2007	1206
2008	2360
2009	2871

## Steps for Life:

On Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009, more than 2,000 people in five provinces and in 14 communities across Canada walked to raise awareness about the importance of injury prevention in the workplace and to raise funds for family support programs and services to help victims of workplace fatalities, life-altering injuries and occupational disease.

Ottawa's first Steps for Life event raised more than \$4,000 with 122 walkers participating. As part of the planning committee, SCO will be more actively involved in this cause on Sunday, May 2 2010.

## Be Visible/Be Certified:

The theme for 2009 Safe Communities Day was “*Be Visible*” and communities across the country participated in various initiatives.

As First Aid/CPR certification saves lives, improves chances for survival and shortens injury severity and recovery times, Safe Communities Canada, Safe Kids Canada, SMARTRISK and ThinkFirst, in partnership with the Canadian Red Cross, joined forces to aspire to challenge all Canadians to be certified.

Safe Communities Ottawa is ready to help employers, employees and their families participate in cost effective First Aid/CPR certification.

## Conclusion:

The pursuit of safe, healthy workplaces has come a long way and SCO is committed to making Ottawa a community of safe workplaces. It is important to remember that an organizations safety culture develops over a period of time and cannot be created instantly. When everyone works together to create safe working conditions by making continuous improvements, change becomes possible. Everyone must believe in safety, demonstrate it and live it.

Safe Communities Ottawa-Building a Safer Community, one workplace at a time!