



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Candace Carnahan to Speak to Ottawa Youth about Safety in the Workplace In preparation for summer work, young workers get a life lesson

OTTAWA, March 28, 2007 – More than 2,000 local Ottawa youth will have the privilege of hearing Candace Carnahan speak and learn first hand how “The First Step to Not Getting Hurt is Knowing You Can Be.” Candace will be talking to students on March 28th at St Paul High School and Sir Wilfred Laurier Secondary School as well as Frederick Banting Alternate School on March 29th in Stittsville.

As a national “Passport to Safety” spokesperson, Candace will share her personal story in order to underscore the importance of workplace safety. In 1999, while working a summer job at a pulp and paper mill, she took a shortcut over a moving conveyor belt – a route commonly used by co-workers and supervisors. Her foot got caught in the machinery and was crushed beyond repair. Doctors had to amputate her leg below the knee. Today, Candace is committed to helping others avoid workplace injuries and fatalities.

It is estimated that every eight minutes a young person is injured on the job seriously enough to receive workers’ compensation. In Ontario alone, 52 young workers were killed on the job between 2001 and 2005, that’s the equivalent of two high school classes. Achieving a “Passport to Safety” transcript can help reduce the number of injuries in the workplace. “Passport to Safety” is an online test designed to teach young workers about their basic rights and responsibilities and prepare them for on the job training.

Safe Communities Ottawa (SCO), Hydro Ottawa and “Passport to Safety” are working together to keep Ottawa’s young workers safe. “Safe Communities Ottawa’s founding sponsor, Hydro Ottawa is leading the way – they were the first major employer in Ottawa to become a Passport Employer,” says Sandra Lawson

“Hydro Ottawa’s partnership with SCO reinforces our all-encompassing commitment to safety,” said Rosemarie T. Leclair, President and Chief Executive Officer of Hydro Ottawa Holding Inc. “The safety of young workers is of paramount importance. Statistically, they’re the most vulnerable members of the workforce from a safety awareness standpoint. At Hydro Ottawa, obtaining a Passport to Safety transcript is a mandatory requirement for all summer students. In turn, they receive a valuable asset that they can add to their resumes – one that could save their lives on the job.”

Candace’s story will encourage students, employers, parents and teachers to stop and reflect upon this valuable life lesson – all workers young and old have the right to know and participate in making their safety and others a top priority while at work.

About Safe Communities Ottawa

Safe Communities Ottawa (SCO) is a charitable organization dedicated to making Ottawa the safest city in which to live, learn, work and play. In association with Safe Communities Canada our purpose is to eliminate injuries while promoting a culture of safety through partnerships, programs and education. SCO is proud to be one of the 48 designated 'Safe Communities' across Canada.

About Passport to Safety

Passport to Safety is a unique not-for-profit National catalyst for change intended to help eliminate needless injuries and preventable deaths of young Canadians aged 24 and under in the workplace. Young people challenge a Passport to Safety "test", based on learning outcomes developed by health and safety curriculum experts from most provincial and territorial jurisdictions across Canada.

Successful participants are awarded a "transcript" that can be attached to resumé's to demonstrate their basic awareness of health and safety. This basic level of awareness becomes a foundation on which to build all the other essentials required to be safer and healthier workers. For further information contact: passporttosafety.com

About Hydro Ottawa

Hydro Ottawa Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of Hydro Ottawa Holding Inc., is the second largest municipal electricity distribution company in the province. Hydro Ottawa is responsible for the safe, reliable delivery of electricity to more than 282,000 residential and business customers in the city of Ottawa and the village of Casselman. Hydro Ottawa is proud to be the founding sponsor of Safe Communities Ottawa, a safety awareness organization dedicated to making Ottawa the safest city in Canada in which to live, learn, work and play. Hydro Ottawa is also a founding member of powerWISE[®], a program developed in partnership with the Ontario Government and five other electricity distribution companies, created to promote energy conservation to consumers, reduce the overall demand for electricity and most importantly build a conservation culture meant to last for years to come.

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All media attending the event should present themselves to the school's main office.