



## News release

For immediate release

### OSCN launches *Passport to Safety* at Canterbury High School

**Ottawa, May 10, 2005** – On Wednesday, May 11, 2005, more than 600 students from Canterbury High School will participate in the Ottawa launch of *Passport to Safety*, a nationally recognized young workers safety and injury awareness program, coordinated by Ottawa Safe Communities Network (OSCN).

Between 2000 and 2003, in Ontario alone, 53 young workers died on the job. All preventable. *Passport to Safety* is a web-based program that provides a foundation of health and safety knowledge, which has become recognized by WSIB of Ontario as the desired minimum pre-employment standard for young workers.

“OSCN is working to ensure that *Passport to Safety* becomes a recognized program in every high school in Ottawa and a requirement for graduation,” said Alison Beer, OSCN Board Member. “To support this, our founding sponsor Hydro Ottawa Limited, has led the way in demonstrating their commitment by making *Passport to Safety* a pre-requisite when hiring summer students.”

On hand to speak to students, will be Paul Kells, founder of the web-based *Passport to Safety* program, and the Safe Communities Foundation in Canada. After the tragic loss of his son Sean in a workplace accident, Paul has devoted his energy to supporting health and safety efforts across Canada, particularly for youth.

Candace Carnahan, *Passport to Safety* spokesperson, will use her first-hand experience to emphasize 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 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.

Steve Clouthier, Manager, Safety & Training, Hydro Ottawa Limited will be on hand to congratulate and thank Canterbury High School and the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board for allowing Hydro Ottawa an opportunity to speak about this important program. “As an employer with workers who face dangers on the job everyday Hydro Ottawa Limited understands how important it is to promote and provide a safe work environment. *Passport to Safety* is such a valuable program for the youth of our community and we are pleased to be a part of it.”

### **About Ottawa Safe Communities Network**

Incorporated in 2003 with Hydro Ottawa Limited as its founding sponsor, Ottawa Safe Communities Network (OSCN) is not-for-profit charitable organization dedicated to making Ottawa the safest city in the country in which to live, learn, work and play. OSCN believes that injuries are predictable and preventable, and works to build partnerships to improve the lives of people throughout our community.

### **About Hydro Ottawa Limited**

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 275,000 residential and business customers in the city of Ottawa and the village of Casselman.

### **About Ottawa Carleton District School Board**

The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) is the largest school board in Eastern Ontario serving over 70,000 students within a 2,760 square kilometer area known as the city of Ottawa. It has a vibrant, enthusiastic learning community that benefits from a wide range of programs that promote excellence and meet individual needs. All of the schools are learning communities where staff support and challenge students to achieve their best in academics, the arts, athletics, and technology.

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