



**PARTNERS IN PREVENTION 2025**  
REGIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY CONFERENCE

# Foundations & *FRONTIERS*



**SOUTHWESTERN | OCTOBER 15, 2025**  
Bingemans Conference Centre

# KITCHENER

[PartnersInPreventionConference.com/Southwestern](https://PartnersInPreventionConference.com/Southwestern)



# Foundations & FRONTIERS

Safety is a collective responsibility that goes beyond the workplace. It's about ensuring people are protected, workers return home healthy and safe, and communities thrive. By fostering a culture of collaboration and cooperation, every worker needs to feel empowered to contribute to a safer work environment. By prioritizing workplace safety, continuous learning and open communication we can collectively achieve a common purpose to protect each other and achieve a zero-incident workplace. Working together, hand in hand, to build a stronger, more resilient workplace culture and community.

Join us at Partners in Prevention and get ready to work together. With a common purpose of protecting people, promoting healthy workplace cultures – together we can contribute to businesses success while strengthening the social and economic fabric of the communities we serve.

## OCTOBER 15, 2025

Keynote Speakers Bios.....	page 3
<b>SPONSORS</b> .....	page 4
<b>SERIES 1</b> .....	page 5
<b>SERIES 2</b> .....	page 7
<b>SERIES 3</b> .....	page 9

## SESSION TRACKS

To help you maximize your conference experience, we've divided sessions into seven categories. Choose the sessions you want from any category, however you want.

<b>G</b> General H&S	<b>LD</b> Leadership
<b>HZ</b> Hazards	<b>LL</b> Legislative & Legal
<b>HR</b> Human Resources	<b>WMH</b> Workplace & Mental Health
<b>JHSC</b> JHSC	



## SAVE \$60

Early Bird Rate: **\$329 + HST**  
Register on or before  
**September 17, 2025**

# KEYNOTES | October 15, 2025



## MORNING KEYNOTE 8:00 – 9:00 am

### The Pattern Behind the Problem: A New Lens for Safety Culture

#### NATHAN HALL

Creator of The Work of Us™ and Founder of Culture Check

Sponsored by:



Burnout. Disengagement. Change fatigue. These aren't separate crises—they're signals of something deeper: hopelessness—a collapse of belief in change, in agency, and in each other. Hopelessness is the crisis behind the crises. It traps teams in destructive patterns of connection. This keynote introduces The Work of Us™, a practical lens for diagnosing and shifting culture. You'll learn how patterns form through clashing rhythms. You'll see how those patterns are shaped by a team's conditions and capacity. And you'll discover how every team's repeated pattern becomes its Culture Archetype. Map the pattern. Design a new rhythm. Restore hope—the foundation of connection, resilience, and a culture that lasts.



## PANEL PRESENTATION 1:15 – 2:15 pm

### Building Safety from the Top Down

Sponsored by:



**Sonny Brar**, Global Senior Vice President, Occupational Health & Safety and Quality Assurance, Fiera Foods/Upper Crust

**Jim Brown**, Vice President, Construction Centre of Excellence, Ontario Power Generation

**Jennifer Edey**, Senior Vice-President, Operational Services & Digital Technology, Bruce Power

**Dorothy Moryc**, Vice President, Grid Transformation and Chief Distribution Officer, Enova Power

**MODERATOR: Jody Young**, President and CEO Workplace Safety & Prevention Services

As the landscape of workplace safety continuously evolves, organizations must prioritize safety issues and redefine their roles in this dynamic environment. Join us for an interactive discussion hosted by WSPS, where a group of talented and inspiring leaders will come together to share their successful safety strategies and innovative safety values. These leaders have championed health, safety, and wellness within their organizations, making them integral to their corporate culture. They will share their personal stories and journeys, offering valuable insights into how they have made safety a top priority.

# Thank You to Our Generous Sponsors

## PLATINUM



## GOLD



## SILVER



## BRONZE



## REFRESH & REFUEL



## PEN SPONSOR



## MEDIA SPONSOR





# October 15, 2025

Registration & Breakfast

7:00 – 8:00 am

Trade Show Hours

7:00 am – 2:45 pm



## SERIES 1

9:30 – 10:45 am Choose One

### Integrating Due Diligence Into Everyday Supervisory Practices

 2 Hour Session  
9:15 – 11:15 am

**Kristin Onorato**, Specialized Consultant (Occupational Health & Safety)  
Workplace Safety & Prevention Services

Ontario supervisors carry vital legal responsibilities under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*, but balancing compliance with daily work demands can feel overwhelming. This extended session provides practical strategies to incorporate health and safety responsibilities into routine tasks rather than viewing them as separate tasks. Participants will gain a clear understanding of their legal duties, develop techniques to manage worker behaviors, and explore employer-driven approaches to support supervisor diligence. Learn how to integrate due diligence into daily work, document and demonstrate safety efforts, and build confidence in leading a safer, more productive workplace.

**G** **HR** **JHSC** **LD** **LL**

### Empowering Everyone: Conducting Root Cause Analysis for Safer Workplaces

**Rishma Brenner**, Senior Health & Safety Consultant, RARCA, Workplace Safety & Prevention Services

**Alyson Smith**, Specialized Consultant (Management Systems), Workplace Safety & Prevention Services

Join us for an engaging session on Root Cause Analysis (RCA) to uncover the hidden causes of workplace incidents and create a safer environment. This session covers the Swiss Cheese Model, Fishbone Diagram, and the 5 Whys method, providing practical techniques for effective RCA. Participants will learn the step-by-step process of conducting RCA and who should be involved. Through hands-on group activities, including scenarios like slip/trip/fall incidents and workplace violence, participants will apply RCA techniques, share findings, and develop action plans. This collaborative experience ensures participants leave with practical tools and strategies to enhance safety and prevent future incidents.

**G** **JHSC** **LD**

### Robotics Safety: Navigating the New ISO 10218 Robotics Standards and Their Impact

**Ioan Buzdugan**, P.Eng. Technical Standards & Strategy UL, Investment Lead, Honda of Canada Mfg.

**Robert Vomiero**, P. Eng., FS Eng, CMSE®, CHSC, Specialized Consultant (Machine and Robotics Safety), Workplace Safety & Prevention Services

The release of ISO 10218:2025 Parts 1 and 2 introduces critical updates that will shape the future of industrial robotics. This session provides insight into the new standards, highlighting adoption efforts in the U.S. and Canada, as well as major revisions affecting integrators and end users alike. Key topics include risk assessment responsibilities, introduction of robot classifications, changes to high-speed manual operation requirements, and evolving functional safety requirements. Learn about dynamic safeguarded spaces and collaborative applications, including the merging of ISO/TS 15066 into ISO 10218-2 annexes. Participants will gain valuable insights into new information provided in the standards, and some of the latest requirements in robotics safety. Whether you're a manufacturer, system integrator, or end user, this session will equip you with important knowledge needed to help navigate the latest industrial robotics standards, and an understanding of their important role in the overall regulatory framework.

**HZ**

# SERIES 1

9:30 – 10:45 am Choose One

## Safe Minds, Safe Workplaces: Building Safe and Supportive Environments

**Kristy Cork**, Specialized Consultant (Healthy Workplaces), Workplace Safety & Prevention Services

A mentally toxic and unsafe workplace puts your organization at risk for negative outcomes, like costly turnover, decreased productivity, absenteeism, and increased risk of incidents and accidents. There are several factors that impact the mental and emotional safety of your workplace. Civility and respect, clear leadership and expectations, and psychological protection are three of these factors that will be explored in detail to improve the worker experience and reduce the risk of mental harm. By looking closely at how work is organized, and how people are managed and supported, you can create a culture of carefulness. This session will explore the connection between creating a safe workplace and the positive impacts on workers' ability to thrive. Walk away with simple tools and strategies with confidence to help you on your journey.

HR WMH

## Contractor Safety: Legal Obligations as an Employer

Sponsored by:

AIRD BERLIS

**David Reiter**, Partner, Occupational Health & Safety Group, Aird & Berlis LLP

In today's freelance economy, employers increasingly rely on independent contractors rather than employees. While this approach can benefit the bottom line, it also introduces risks. Employers must understand their responsibilities regarding contractors and their obligations if an injury occurs on a work-site. Failure to address these issues can expose companies to significant liabilities. Join David Reiter, Partner and occupational health and safety lawyer at Aird & Berlis LLP, as he outlines the legal implications for employers when hiring contractors and provides guidance on handling workplace injuries. Don't miss this opportunity to gain valuable insights and protect your business.

LL

## Ergonomics Implications Associated with Wearable (and other) Technologies

**Nathan Birtch**, R.Kin. CCPE, Specialized Consultant (Ergonomics)  
Workplace Safety & Prevention Services

Modern technological innovations, such as exoskeletons, motion capture technology, wearable devices, and virtual reality-based training, are being considered for tasks performed by workers across various industries to improve performance, efficiency, and safety. However, with the introduction of new technologies, there are potential benefits, challenges, and risks that must be considered. Applying ergonomics principles, the science of understanding and ensuring compatibility between human abilities/limitations and the work they perform, is becoming an increasingly important factor to consider. This session will explore the benefits, challenges, and potential risks associated with various forms of modern wearables and other technologies being more widely introduced into workplaces.

HZ

## SERIES 2 11:30 am – 12:30 pm Choose One



### WSIB Claims 201

**Jennifer Singleton**, Stakeholder Relations Manager  
Workplace Safety and Insurance Board

Sponsored by



This session will build on WSIB Claims 101 from 2024 and take an in-depth look into WSIB complex claims management. Touching on Case Management, Return to Work and Health Services for both physical and mental stress claims. Leave with an understanding of how the different areas of WSIB work together to promote safe and suitable return to work and recovery for workers. Join the WSIB to learn more about the complexities of claims management.

G HR

### Falls Prevention and Accident Investigation: A Unified Approach

**Brian Varrasso**, Consultant, Infrastructure Health & Safety Association

This session will explore the development of a comprehensive falls prevention program that seamlessly integrates with an accident investigation framework. Participants will learn to identify potential fall hazards, implement preventive measures, and conduct thorough investigations after incidents. By combining proactive and reactive strategies, this program aims to reduce fall-related injuries and enhance workplace safety. Attendees will gain practical insights and tools to create a safer environment, ensuring compliance with safety regulations, and fostering a culture of continuous improvement.

G HZ LL

### Mental Fitness and Safety: Recognizing the Human Factor

**Erin Gorrie**, Mental Wellness Advocate and Retired First Responder

Safety begins with mental readiness. This session explores how emotional exhaustion, workplace fatigue, and chronic stress can quietly undermine our ability to stay present, make sound decisions, and respond effectively in high-stress situations, putting yourself and others at risk. Erin Gorrie shares her powerful personal story, offering real-life insight into how mental fatigue impacts workplace safety—and how to recover. We'll examine common workplace contributors like perfectionism and overachievement, and how to recognize early warning signs in yourself and others. Learn practical strategies for approaching someone who may be struggling, and how to foster open, stigma-free conversations built on trust and compassion. Participants will leave with tools and resources to support mental fitness and create safer work environments. This session is especially relevant for those in high-responsibility roles where being mentally present can mean the difference between harm and safety.

G HR LD WMH

### The Show Must Go On! Balancing Safety and Business

**Barrie Furtney**, Health & Safety Consultant, Workplace Safety & Prevention Services

Are you a business owner or manager juggling multiple responsibilities without a dedicated safety team? This session is designed for you! Managing health and safety is crucial for any business, and this session will provide you with valuable insights into how all the pieces fit together. You'll learn about key safety considerations, task assignments and essential elements you can't afford to overlook, including ensuring all necessary safety measures are in place, clarifying who is responsible for various safety tasks and understanding the importance of maintaining accurate records and complying WSIB requirements. Bring your questions and leave feeling supported and empowered to manage safety effectively in your organization.

G JHSC LL

## SERIES 2    11:30 am – 12:30 pm    Choose One

### Pedestrian Segregation: The Next Frontier

**Kevin Van Dyken**, National Business Development Manager, Proax Technologies Inc.

Sponsored by



The Canadian manufacturing and warehousing sectors are dramatically growing and evolving but those responsible for the safety of personnel, contractors, and facilities are not always able to keep up. This session looks at the current landscape in Canada and discusses the next steps to integrate the passive and active safety necessary for the protection of workers related to autonomous mobile robots (AMRs) and automated forklifts. It also addresses the training that must be top of mind to ensure that both current and future generations are equipped to thrive alongside the increasingly complex intersection of people, machines, and intelligent systems.

HZ   HR

### From Boredom to Brilliance: Transforming WHMIS Training for Real Impact

**Melanie Lesperance**, Regional Program Coordinator  
Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development

**Elizabeth Lofthouse**, Senior Health & Safety Consultant, Workplace Safety & Prevention Services

How effective is your WHMIS training? Do your workers, supervisors and managers understand the hazards associated with the products they work with? Have you provided them with adequate training, so they know how to protect themselves when working with hazardous products in your workplace? If you asked them right now to show you how they safely use, handle, store, or dispose of hazardous products, would you confidently expect they could? Can you describe how WHMIS benefits your business?

This engaging and interactive session will provide a focused overview of MLITSD's Occupational Hygiene Campaigns, with an emphasis on effective WHMIS workplace-specific training to prevent occupational illness and injuries. Participants will gain insights into best practices, and frequent workplace contraventions will be highlighted while offering practical solutions for compliance and safety improvements. Designed to be both informative and hands-on, this session will equip attendees with actionable strategies and tools to strengthen WHMIS training in their workplaces.

G   HR   JHSC



Early Bird Rate: **\$329 + HST**  
Register on or before  
**September 17, 2025**

**SAVE \$60**



## SERIES 3

2:45 – 3:45 pm Choose One



### Leading vs. Managing: Communication and Culture is a Choice

**Mindy Weir**, Senior Director, Regional Distribution, Grainger Canada

Fostering an inclusive workplace culture offers many benefits essential for long-term success, such as improved engagement and collaboration, better employee wellbeing, enhanced business performance, and a stronger company brand. In today's multifaceted and changing workplace, companies are feeling the pinch when it comes to minimizing employee turnover and creating an inclusive environment where team members feel a sense of belonging, pride, and ownership. It's crucial to create a place where team members can be their authentic selves, make meaningful contributions, and see themselves for long-term success. By showing accountability, engagement, and recognition, workplaces can build the right path to a positive and productive workplace culture. During this presentation, Mindy will share her personal insights and real-life work experience when it comes to driving engagement in a high-pressure environment with a focus on three key elements: building representation in leadership that reflects the teams they lead; leading with empathy and understanding to foster motivation and creating a sense of belonging and ownership to enhance performance.

G

HR

### Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment 101

**Carl Bonello**, Specialized Consultant, Warehouse & Distribution, Workplace Safety & Prevention Services

**Nicole Mason**, EHS Specialist, Linamar

Geared towards newer members to the safety community, this interactive 101 session will guide participants through the fundamentals of hazard identification and risk assessment—two critical pillars of a proactive safety culture. Attendees will learn how to recognize common and hidden hazards in manufacturing environments, assess the severity and likelihood of associated risks, and determine appropriate control measures. Using real-world examples, we'll explore how to prioritize risks and implement effective next steps, including corrective actions, documentation, and communication strategies. This session will equip you with practical tools to enhance workplace safety and support continuous improvement you can take back to your workplace.

G

HZ

### Innovating Health and Safety: Engaging Your JHSC and the Modern Workforce

**Ted Balazs**, Health & Safety Consultant, Workplace Safety & Prevention Services

**Ron Boyer**, Health & Safety Consultant, Infrastructure Health & Safety Association

**Jeremy Shorthouse**, EHS Consultant

Explore the key elements that make a Joint Health and Safety Committee (JHSC) effective and impactful. Participants will gain insights into best practices for JHSCs, including understanding the roles and responsibilities of committee members while making it fun and engaging. Together, we will examine creative approaches to health and safety, such as utilizing technology and digital platforms to connect with a multi-faceted workforce. The session will also address the importance of diversity, innovation, and leveraging the unique skills and experiences of team members to overcome language barriers and enhance problem-solving, communication, and building trust. Participants will have the opportunity to share best practices and talk through what is and isn't working at their committees, examining issues from both a manager's and a worker's perspective. Regardless of what industry you represent, this session aims to equip participants with practical tools and innovative ideas to foster a collaborative and motivated health.

G

HR

JHSC

## SERIES 3

2:45 – 3:45 pm Choose One

### Behind the Awards: Real Stories from Canada's Safety Professionals

Sponsored by



#### Panel Presentation

**MODERATOR: Brandi Cowen**, Editor, OHS Canada & Talent Canada, Annex Business Media

Get inspired by the safety professionals setting the standard across the country. This session, led by the editor of OHS Canada, features award-winning leaders from the OHS Honours, a national competition celebrating best practices, sharing the key practices and cultural shifts that earned them national recognition. Learn how these professionals turned challenges into achievements—and how you can apply their lessons in your own organization to build a strong safety culture.

G HR LD

### Staying On Your Feet: Preventing Slips, Trips and Falls in the Workplace

**Nicole Sherman**, Health & Safety Consultant, Workplace Safety & Prevention Services

Slips, trips, and falls might sound minor, but they're among the top causes of workplace injuries, and the consequences can be anything but small. In this session, we'll shed light on the startling statistics behind these incidents, discuss underlying causes, and share practical strategies to prevent them. Through this session, you'll gain insight into proven hazard controls and discover how small changes can create safer work environments. Whether you're on the front lines or supporting behind the scenes, you'll walk away equipped with strategies to boost fall protection and keep everyone on their feet, safely.

HZ

### Tips for Building and Occupational Health & Safety Management System: From Zero to Success

**Mike Russo**, MHSc, ROH, CRSP, Consultant, WorkBright™

Want to build a strong Occupational Health and Safety Management System (OHSMS) but don't know where to start? This presentation provides five actionable tips to help organizations manage health and safety more effectively and efficiently. Whether your organization is simply looking for tips to manage OHS more effectively, or it is looking to achieve certification to standards such as ISO 45001 or COR® (Certificate of Recognition), learn about common pitfalls and proven strategies for success. From leadership commitment and hazard and risk assessment, to implementing controls, this session will empower your organization to streamline OHS processes, improve compliance, and demonstrate a commitment to health & safety.

G JHSC LD

# The Trade Show

Visit the trade show to meet a range of vendors, network with peers and gain valuable knowledge on new products and best practices at your workplace.

Visit the  
Trade Show



**October 15, 2025**  
**7:00 am – 2:45 pm**



## Top 5 Reasons to attend the trade show:

1. Network with vendors and industry experts who can help elevate your business
2. Access need-to-know information to enhance your OHS knowledge
3. Expand your network and connect with leaders that can improve your business performance
4. Discover the latest innovations, products and services
5. Have fun! Engage in demos and activities to win booth giveaways and or special offers



For exhibitor or sponsorship information contact:

**TERRI BOORNE**  
Events Coordinator

Mobile

289-326-5115

Toll Free

1-877-494-9777

email

terri.boorne@wsps.ca

[PartnersinPreventionConference.com/Southwestern](https://PartnersinPreventionConference.com/Southwestern)

# HOTEL INFORMATION

## DOUBLETREE by HILTON KITCHENER

30 Fairway Rd. South  
Kitchener, Ontario

**Phone:** 519.893.1211

**Book by:** September 15, 2025

**Rate:** \$179 Plus applicable taxes and fees  
(single King room)

### Booking Details:

Please book directly to receive the special rate  
and quote room block code: **"WSP"**

Rooms are subject to availability.

Doubletree Hilton Kitchener



*You're in...*



**Member  
Benefits**

[wsp.ca/memberbenefits](https://wsp.ca/memberbenefits)



If you're a WSIB-registered business in the  
agriculture, manufacturing or services  
sectors, you're automatically entitled to  
receive a suite of health and safety services  
from WSPS at no additional cost.



**WSPS.CA**



# REGISTRATION INFORMATION

## FULL CONFERENCE



### EARLY BIRD RATE

Register on or before September 17, 2025

**\$329+ HST**

### REGULAR RATE

After September 17, 2025

**\$379+ HST**

**NOTE:** Minimum number of participants must be registered in order to run the conference.  
**REGISTER EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT!**

#### VOLUME DISCOUNTS

**5%** 6 – 9 registrations  
**10%** 10 – 15 registrations

**15%** 16 – 20 registrations  
**20%** 21 or more registrations

To be eligible for a volume discount, registrations must be made at the same time. Volunteer, Health & Safety Excellence program, volume discounts and/or any other discounts or special offers cannot be combined.

## Registration Details

### PAYMENT METHODS

Visa, Mastercard, or AMEX. Invoices available on approved credit only; contact Customer Care at: [customercare@wsps.ca](mailto:customercare@wsps.ca)

### REGISTRATION RATES

include breakfast, keynote speakers, lunch, conference sessions, and trade show admission. The Early Bird rate cannot be combined with any other discount or special offer. Volunteer, safety group, volume discounts and any other discounts or special offers cannot be combined.

### CANCELLATION POLICY

Cancellations received in writing before October 7, 2025, will receive a full refund less a \$50 cancellation fee. Cancellations received after this date will not be accepted and the full conference fee will be forfeited without exception.

- Delegate substitutions are accepted at anytime and must be received in writing to [customercare@wsps.ca](mailto:customercare@wsps.ca) by October 10, 2025.
- If the cancelling delegate is a member of a group registration, the remaining group members may be subject to a higher fee as outlined within the WSPS event fee structure.
- Cancellations and/or substitutions must be made through Customer Care at: [customercare@wsps.ca](mailto:customercare@wsps.ca)

### BCRSP POINTS

Attending Partners in Prevention 2025 Regional Health & Safety Conference – qualifies for BCRSP CPD points. WSPS is not responsible for maintaining and processing education credits. Visit the BCRSP website at [www.bcrsp.ca](http://www.bcrsp.ca) for more information on CPD point criteria and submission.

### TERMS & CONDITIONS

- Program subject to change without notice. WSPS reserves the right to make date changes with notice, speaker changes without notice and/or to cancel an event.
- Delegate registrations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis; online advanced registration is strongly encouraged. If circumstances arise that require capacity to be reduced, any impacted individuals will be notified as soon as possible and be provided with a full refund.
- Where in person capacity limits may restrict the number of patrons allowed in the facility, onsite registration may not be allowed. WSPS Organizers will provide more details regarding this process closer to the event opening.

### HEALTH & SAFETY MEASURES

Protecting the health and safety of our delegates, speakers, exhibitors, and staff is, and will continue to be, top priority at WSPS. Should any level of government or respective agency impose restrictions or regulations that may impact the event, WSPS Organizers will make every effort to communicate such updates closer to the start of the event.

To register or for more information, please visit:

**PartnersInPreventionConference.com/Southwestern**



REGISTER  
EARLY & SAVE

Early Bird Rate: **\$329 + HST**  
Register on or before  
**September 17, 2025**

**SAVE \$60**



### Workplace Safety & Prevention Services™ (WSPS)

is a not-for-profit health and safety organization in Ontario, serving more than 174,000 member firms and 4.2 million workers across the agricultural, manufacturing and service sectors.

CONNECT  
WITH US



5110 Creekbank Road  
Mississauga, ON L4W 0A1  
1 877 494 WSPS (9777)  
T 905 614 1400 | F 905 614 1414  
E [customercare@wsp.ca](mailto:customercare@wsp.ca) [WSPS.CA](https://www.wsp.ca)

