



ESAO Conference Update

We asked our clients what they wanted to see at our 2009 conference, to be held at the Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel, and incorporated all of their suggestions into an exciting lineup of sessions and entertainment. We are pleased to announce that ESAO will hold two full-day Professional Development (PD) opportunities on May 25th, 2009. The PD sessions that will be offered are WHMIS Train the Trainer and Best Practices in Reducing Violence within Schools: Out of the Corridors and into the Classroom. ESAO's Conference will follow, from May 26th to 28th. This year's theme is *Create, Innovate and Celebrate: Lead the Way in Health and Safety*. Here are some of the highlights:

Tuesday's opening ceremony is full of surprises. Let us entertain you with the uplifting sound of children singing and through inspiring messages from speakers. During the conference, we will hold two panel discussions: Return to Work and Violence Prevention in the Workplace: Best Practices for Safety in Special Education. These moderated sessions will provide you with the opportunity to listen to a carefully selected panel of presenters, contribute to discussions, and ask questions. Our regular series of conference sessions is varied and we have included the targeted hazards in the education sector, such as MSDs, Slips, Trips and Falls, and Motor Vehicle Safety. Be sure to try out one of the virtual driving simulators offered at the interactive Hazards of Driving session. For a full up-to-date listing of all conference sessions, please visit our [website](#).

This year's tradeshow will take place in the City Hall Room on Tuesday and Wednesday. Have fun participating in the many planned activities as you meet each of the 25 exhibitors and vote on the best booth. We have added a Wellness Centre, where you can watch and partake in reflexology and massage treatments, stress management workshops, and discover ways to increase your personal health and wellbeing. Tuesday night, following our icebreaker event, is your opportunity to explore Toronto. There are numerous performances taking place downtown, if you would like to plan the evening. Need some ideas? Please visit our information desk early for suggestions, such as booking a brewery tour or visiting one of the local galleries and museums.

We always encourage our clients to find innovative ways to create a safer work environment. During the conference, we will celebrate some of their successes. On Wednesday evening, we will host a celebration banquet where you can listen to the music of the Graham Howe Trio while mingling with friends and colleagues. Enjoy a hot buffet dinner, followed by presentations of the new President's Safety Achievement Award. And finally, relax and have a few laughs with comedian James Cunningham. Please remember to attend the closing luncheon on Thursday, where you can take part in the numerous prize draws.

If you are interested in applying for the President's Safety Achievement Award, please visit our website at www.esao.on.ca, download the forms, and submit your application to us no later than April 30th.

We look forward to seeing you at ESAO's Conference 2009!