



**PSAC North Regional Health & Safety Conference**  
**Strong Foundations – Strong Safety Culture Built on Strong Foundations**  
**April 20&21,2024**  
**Yellowknife, NT**

**Workshops & Presenters**

**Trauma-informed Approaches to Health and Safety and Education**

**Facilitator: Dolly Ablitt**

Based on the understanding that many persons who access union services have had experiences of trauma in their lives, this workshop will consider how, as union activists, we can apply a trauma-informed approach to ensure the person or people are not further traumatized in the course of their experience so we can build safer more inclusive workplaces. This will be done by creating awareness and understanding on the basics of trauma and how it forms and presents itself. You will learn about the core principles of trauma-informed Advocacy and how to apply them to your approach when working with members and promoting best practices with Employers.

**Dolly Ablitt**

Dolly has been a Regional Representative with the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) for 18 years and a Union Activist for 30 years. She was an Organizer for Ekati Diamond Mine. She actively works with Members conducting negotiations, delivering basic and advanced union education including committee training, local training, leadership training, employment equity training, all with an anti-oppression lens. Dolly

also provides day to day guidance and advice to stewards, local officers, and Committees.

Dolly works for the PSAC in the Programs Section as a Human Rights Officer/Indigenous Rights Officer since February 2022. Her primary role is working with the National Indigenous Peoples' Circle and Indigenous members within the Union. Prior to that she was a Regional Representative since 2001, first in the Yellowknife Regional office, and in 2007, in the Calgary Regional Office. She has held other roles in the Union as well, including as a Negotiator and an Education Officer.

### **Hazards and Mental Health Issues in the Workplace**

**Facilitators: Andrea Heart & Clint Wirth**

After completion of this session, you will be able to understand and identify psychosocial hazards in the workplace, know how to intervene to assist members experiencing mental health difficulties and be able to recommend Preventative measures to reduce impact of workplace factors on mental health. Workers are learning that factors affecting mental health can be managed similar to managing issues that impact physical health.

#### **Clint Wirth**

Clint Worth is the PSAC Prairie Region Health and Safety Representative, a position he has been in for over 10 years. Clint holds a Bachelor of Education degree, as well as a certificate as an office ergonomist. In his current role, he works with PSAC members, local and component representatives, and outside organizations on a wide variety of issues. Clint assists members directly on workers compensation claims, disability insurance claims, and duty to accommodate situations. He also works closely with workplace and regional committees on understanding the different guiding legislation for committees and employers' responsibilities on a wide range of hazards and risks. Clint has also been an organizer for the last 5 Prairie Region Health and Safety Conferences, providing the opportunity to expand on a wide range of health and safety interests, including climate change, trauma informed response, marijuana legalization, mental health first aide, and asbestos exposures to name a few. Clint has a particular interest in issues involving medical privacy, mental health, and workplace violence and harassment.

Clint is on the Board of Directors of the Manitoba Federation of Labour Occupational Health Centre, an organization that provides education, specialized medical care for workplace issues, ergonomic assessments and other tools to workplaces and

individuals at little to no charge. The OHC also actively works with first generation Canadians, ensuring they are aware of health and safety standards, including for precarious jobs such as meat packing.

Clint has also gathered a wealth of experience as a local, component, and regional committee member, working in a hospital setting and as a schoolteacher in previous life experiences. Personally, Clint enjoys spending time with his family and friends and being a Winnipeg Blue Bomber and Winnipeg Jet season ticket holder. Clint also enjoys his role as President of the Great White North Brewerianists, a group of beer enthusiasts and collectors.

### **Andrea Peart**

Andrea Peart is the National Health and Safety Officer with the Public Service Alliance of Canada and is a governor with the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety. Andrea currently sits on six CSA Group Technical Committees, the National Joint Council (NJC) Service-Wide Committee on Occupational Health and Safety (SWOSH) and the NJC Occupational Health and Safety OHS Committee.

She was the National Representative of Health, Safety and Environment with the Canadian Labour Congress for a decade. Formerly Andrea was board chair of Climate Action Network, she both co-chaired and co-founded of the Green Economy Network, former vice-chair of Food Secure Canada. Prior to her work as a trade unionist, Andrea ran Andrea Peart Consulting, was an organizer with the federal New Democratic Party of Canada and was the Director of Health and Environment with the Sierra Club of Canada.

Andrea was instrumental in Canada's ban on asbestos, stopped the commercialization of genetically engineered wheat, assisted 47 communities in passing bylaws that restrict the cosmetic use of pesticides, cemented a role for public sector trade unions in climate action in Canada and has intervened in two supreme court cases against Monsanto. Andrea lives in Ottawa and adores working at the Public Service Alliance of Canada.

### **Foundations for Worker H&S Representatives**

Creating Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committees can be challenging. Accessing training to be an informed Worker Representative, learning what information should be shared with workers and how to build cases when employers are reluctant to change.

This workshop will provide much of the knowledge required to create a safety culture in your workplace by beginning with the basics of solid Health & Safety Committees.

**Facilitator: Cary Ingram**

Cary is currently Chief Inspector of Mines and OHS with Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission for NT and NU. He has more than 29 years in Health, Safety and Environment working in Heavy, Civil, Mining, Oil and gas in the Drilling, Completions and Logistics sector and Oilsands, Industrial Construction.

Cary has over 10 years of equipment operating experience ranging from Heavy Civil and Mining environments (Grader, scraper, loader, dozer, shovel and haulage trucks). Some of Cary's Specialties include Adult Education NT & NU-2019, Emergency response, Auditing Safety programs, Accident Investigation, and Health and Safety program design.