



Canadian Association of University Teachers
Association canadienne des professeures et professeurs d'université

Memorandum 21:09

Date: February 19, 2021

To: Presidents and Administrative Officers
Local and Federated Associations

From: David Robinson, Executive Director

Re: **Health & Safety Training and COVID-19**

Health and safety regulations and standards are one of the most important tools academic staff associations and unions have for protecting their members during the COVID-19 pandemic. CAUT has prepared and is updating health and safety resources on the pandemic, including [re-opening guidelines and checklists](#). In addition, our education program provides several health and safety training modules that are tailored to addressing the specific hazards and challenges created by the pandemic.

For its first training session, CAUT will be hosting a 3-hour module on **Workplace Inspections** adapted to the concerns and challenges posed by the pandemic. We invite you to join us on **Thursday, April 15 from 1 pm to 4 pm (Eastern Time)** for this program focused on the two objectives of workplace inspections: to identify new hazards or conditions that need to be addressed, and to check existing controls to ensure they are effective. The training program covers the legal roles and responsibilities of all workplace parties, including employers and supervisors, with respect to workplace inspections and includes a COVID overlay to the inspection process. Please register [here](#) by **Thursday, March 25**.

In addition, we will be hosting specific virtual training modules on the following topics:

1. **Psychosocial and Mental Health aspects of Health and Safety** – This program provides a basic understanding of psychosocial work hazards and how they may impact workers' mental health. It outlines the health effects associated with psychosocial hazards and explores a range of workplace factors. Participants will discuss methods to identify and assess psychosocial hazards, including policies and programs, physical and cognitive demands analysis and workplace surveys. The program concludes with a discussion on preventative and protective measures for a safer and healthier workplace. Video clips and case studies also engage learners and help them identify and understand contributing and workplace factors, as well as gain a basic understanding of the accommodation process – **Thursday, April 29, from 1 pm to 4 pm (Eastern Time)**. Please register [here](#) by **Thursday, April 8**.

2. **COVID-19** – This module explains what COVID-19 is, how it affects the body, and safety methods which can assist in developing safety protocols for the workplace – **Thursday, May 13, from 1 pm to 4 pm (Eastern Time)**. Please register [here](#) by **Thursday, April 22**.
3. **Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (GHS/WHMIS)** – This program offers an overview of the Globally Harmonized System (GHS) for WHMIS. Participants will explore new standardized information, classification and communication requirements for hazardous products used, stored, handled or disposed of in the workplace. This includes GHS WHMIS labels, safety data sheets and pictograms – **Thursday, May 27 from 1 pm to 4 pm (Eastern Time)**. Please register [here](#) by **Thursday, May 6**.
4. **Workplace Chemicals** – This new module focuses specifically on a wide array of chemicals in all its forms and their use in the workplace – **Thursday, June 10 from 1 pm to 4 pm (Eastern Time)**. Please register [here](#) by **Thursday, May 27**.

CAUT will also soon be offering the following modules:

1. **The New Post-Secondary Mental Health Standard.** A Webinar on the new post-secondary education sector Mental Health Standard and its impact on our members.
2. **Returning to the Workplace.** With some expecting general on-campus instruction to resume in the Fall, this is a comprehensive web-based training to ensure the return to the workplace is safe.
3. **COVID Update Webinar.** A focused one-hour virtual panel dealing with the right to refuse unsafe work, the right to be accommodated, and health and safety protocols.

For more information about current health and safety training opportunities or information regarding new modules, please contact the CAUT Education Officer, Justine De Jaegher, at dejaegher@caut.ca.

***Please note that these sessions will only be held in English.**