



# Safety Lines

Winter 2008

Vision: a safe and healthy Nova Scotia

Phone: 454-9621

Website: [www.nssafety.ns.ca](http://www.nssafety.ns.ca)

**THE 26TH ANNUAL  
HEALTH AND  
SAFETY  
CONFERENCE**

**MARCH 26-28, 2008**

**WESTIN NOVA  
SCOTIAN HOTEL,  
HALIFAX**

**40 WORKSHOPS,  
SESSIONS AND  
PLANT TOURS**

**TRADE SHOW**

**ENTERTAINMENT**

**NETWORKING  
OPPORTUNITIES**

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[www.nssafety.ns.ca](http://www.nssafety.ns.ca)

**OR 902-454-9621**

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**Jackie Norman**

## It's All About You

The easiest way to understand what the Safety Council does is to say that we are a **member-driven** organization. It's all about fulfilling the health and safety needs of YOU, our members. Just about every industry and walk of life in Nova Scotia is represented among our list of members. Our programs and services are based on what the majority of members need and want.

As your industries change, and your working lives change, so do the programs and services we offer. We also track new inventions or trends that affect your health and safety off the job.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE**

In recent years it's been hard to have a conversation with anyone, without hearing the complaint "I'm doing the work of 2 people" (or more!). Technology has not decreased our workload. It has created the expectation that we can accomplish much more in the same amount of time. We recognize that many of our members are in this situation. We are doing our best to make your working life easier. A quick call or email to us SHOULD result in a task (such as renewing membership or booking safety training courses) scratched off your TO-DO list.

## **Membership Visits**

We called many of you in 2007 to set up a member visit, and will be calling many more in 2008. A member visit is like an "in-person" survey. It takes about a half hour of your time. It's your chance to tell us exactly what you think of our current programs and services. We'll also ask what services you think we should be offering. We'll discuss any other issues you consider important.

Member visits are the most effective way of determining what members need from us. Please add your opinions to those of other members we visit.

## **Strategic Planning**

The Council updated its Strategic Plan in the Fall of 2007 and included information that was received at the Open Forum at last years Conference (which many Members attended) as well as Member Visits to assist in setting our direction and goals. So be assured that you are being heard and we will continue to evolve in this manner. Join us at our Annual Conference in March to learn more about our direction and goals. The Annual



**CHECK  
OUT  
TRANS-**

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SITE ON WINTER TIRE  
SAFETY .http://**

[www.tc.gc.ca/roadsafety/](http://www.tc.gc.ca/roadsafety/)



- **Diabetes Awareness**
- **Duty To Accommodate**
- **Heat stress**
- **Joint Committee initiatives**
- **Return to work**
- **Scaffolding**
- **Trenching**
- **Workplace violence**
- **What a Labour inspector looks for during an investigation**

Many Nova Scotians have diabetes and many others do not know they have it. Attend this session and learn the types of diabetes, some symptoms, possible complications of diabetes and much more!

Two “not to miss” sessions are **Literacy and Safety In Nova Scotia** and **Recruiting and Retaining Skilled Workers**.

Some industries are already experiencing worker shortages, which can affect workplace health and safety, and community safety...as school bus drivers, mechanics, snow plow operators, maintenance personnel and other skilled labour heeds the call to “go West”. We’re bringing in Hiring Smart Canada to present some suggestions about how workplaces can find and keep good people.

Speaking of good people, many smart and capable individuals have poor literacy skills. They are often our family members and coworkers. In fact, about 4 out of 10 Nova Scotians have difficulty reading and understanding printed materials. This impacts their life—from reading the instructions on their medication to reading an MSDS sheet at work. It’s a health and safety issue and it’s an economic issue. Computers and other technology creates the demand for literate workers.

In our conference session on the topic, we’ll present a manager’s story—his very moving experiences in dealing with workers who had literacy problems.

Also showcased will be the programs that are available to address this issue. Finally, Elmsdale Lumber will tell its story as to how, as part of its safety management system, it established a workplace literacy program.

The conference goes from the courage of people dealing with literacy issues to the courage of an injury survivor. Take in the moving and informative session on **Burn Awareness** with speaker Michael Gaultois. Michael will touch your heart and mind with his story, some humour and lots of information.

Two other conference speakers have reached great heights in their professional lives. We’ll feature Mt. Everest climber-summiteer and cancer survivor Alan Hobson, and Doug Morris, airline pilot, meteorologist and author of **From**



**The Flight Deck: Plane Talk and Sky Science.** Doug will talk about airline safety: training, and refresher training for pilots, aircraft maintenance and standard operating procedures. These are the same things we’re practicing on the ground in our workplaces every day. Anyone who has ever flown on a commercial airliner as a passenger has wondered about “funny noises” or turbulence, so come to this session to get your questions answered!

Go online now at [www.nssafety.ns.ca](http://www.nssafety.ns.ca). Click on UPCOMING EVENTS. It will take you to the conference registration site. Or, let us help you register. Call today at 902-454-9621 and we’ll put you through to a friendly staff member (we’re all friendly) who’ll have you registered in a jiffy.

## Annual Conference Highlights

You’ll laugh, gasp, and be moved. You’ll hear motivational talks and inspiring words that will stay with you for months and years to come. You’ll meet delegates who are working in jobs much like yours. Some of them will have the answers to your workplace safety issues. You’ll be entertained and well fed. You’ll leave with so many ideas and insights, you simply can’t absorb any more.

This is the Safety Council’s annual conference experience. It’s why huge numbers of delegates come back year after year, and attendance keeps growing.

Things get underway on Wednesday, March 26 with some pre-conference courses, and later, the first of several conference workshops. Then, at 6pm, it’s the Official Opening. Pete Lockett of “Pete’s Frootique” and NS Environment and Labour Minister Mark Parent are the featured speakers.

The conference is like an “All You Can Learn Buffet” with a dizzying array of topics. Here are a few.

- **Contractor Safety**

## WELCOME SHARON BAUDAIS!

The Safety Council would like to welcome Sharon Baudais as Director of Operations. Sharon will be dealing with payroll, HR and other aspects of the managing the Council's finances and operations.

Sharon Baudais began her career in accounting and finance in 1986. While working her way to the third level of the CGA program she continued to gain experience working in the accounting department of a large BC owned freight forwarding company. She later held positions such as Controller and Manager of Finance for several large organizations on the West Coast.

Sharon then decided to go into business herself. After three years of self-employment and a solid client base, in 2002 she took on an even bigger challenge and risk and moved herself and her 5-year-old son Jesse to Nova Scotia – sight unseen.

The move turned out to be a risk well taken. Since then, Sharon has worked as a Controller for two NS based businesses, and also opened her own bookkeeping business. She maintains that business while also working for the Council.

Sharon is also a member of the Center For Women in Business and the Federation of Business and Professional Women (Canada). In 2006, Sharon began the East Hants Business Women's Networking Group. This is a small group of local business-women that get together monthly for networking and professional development. In addition, once a year, Sharon volunteers her time with the Children's Wish Foundation and organizes the Children's Wish Maker Parade in Enfield.

Adding to her accounting education, Sharon has also enrolled in the CFP program (Certified Financial Planning). This program compliments her prior educational and practical experience.

"I have a strong work ethic, yet I am very appreciative of my blessings". "I have my mother and father to thank for the work ethic and my son for showing me what a true blessing is." "But I believe if we are truly grateful for what we have then we need to give back and that's why I have such a steadfast belief in volunteering".

## WHERE'S MARY?

A familiar face around the Council, Mary Walker is "semi-retired" and loving it! She handles accounts payable and receivable.

## REGIONAL SAFETY COURSES

if your company is based OUTSIDE of the Metro Halifax area, the Safety Council is going to make your (workday) life easier!

Now you can get your safety training requirements handled in a snap! Enroll your employees in the courses they need and cross another task off your TO-DO list. The Safety Council is coming to YOUR AREA for several days this Winter/Spring, offering the most in-demand safety awareness courses. Here's the schedule of courses:

<b>BRIDGEWATER AREA</b> OHS Committee, January 28 Workplace Inspections/Incident Investigation, January 29 Due Diligence, January 30 (1/2 day)	<b>PORT HAWKESBURY AREA</b> Transportation of Dangerous Goods, March 10 OHS Committee, March 11 Workplace Inspections/Incident Investigation, March 12 Due Diligence, March 13 (1/2 day)
<b>NEW GLASGOW/TRURO AREA</b> Confined Space Entry, March 3-4 OHS Committee, March 5 Workplace Inspections/Incident Investigation, March 6 Due Diligence, March 7 (1/2 day)	<b>KENTVILLE AREA</b> OHS Committee, April 2 Workplace Inspections/Incident Investigation, April 3 Due Diligence/Lockout, April 4

**ENROLL NOW.** Members and clients like yourself have been requesting more courses in the regional areas. Show your support for courses close to home by registering early. Register online at [www.nssafety.ns.ca](http://www.nssafety.ns.ca) or contact Cheryllynn at 902-454-9621, x233. Or [walsh@nssafety.ns.ca](mailto:walsh@nssafety.ns.ca).

