

Annual Update on Workplace Safety and Insurance Law

Workers' Compensation Law

Date: Wednesday, May 14, 2025 | 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Location: OBA Conference Centre 20 Toronto Street, 2nd Floor, Toronto

Agenda: 8:30 am Registration
9:00 am Program Commences
1:00 pm Program Concludes



In person



Webcast



This program contains:
3hr 30m of Substantive Content
0h 30m of Professionalism Content

The OBA has been approved as an Accredited Provider of Professionalism Content by The Law Society of Ontario.

Join us at our annual conference to receive the latest updates on workplace safety and insurance law and prepare your practice for a successful year ahead. Get up to speed on common time limit issues, non-economic loss (NEL) awards, prosecutions at the Workplace Safety Insurance Board (WSIB), and the evolving area of chronic mental stress (CMS) and traumatic mental stress (TMS). Plus, our seasoned practitioners will walk through how to effectively write for representatives. This conference will strengthen and fortify your skills in this unique and specialized area of law.

Program Chairs: **Julia Noble**, Associate Counsel to the Chair, Workplace Safety and Insurance Appeals Tribunal (WSIAT)
Michael Edmonds, Associate Counsel to the Chair, Workplace Safety and Insurance Appeals Tribunal (WSIAT)

9:00 am	Welcome and Opening Remarks	John Bartolomeo , Lawyer/Co-Director, Workers' Health and Safety Legal Clinic (moderator)
9:05 am	Time Limits and Workers' Compensation Julie Weller , Partner, Mathews, Dinsdale & Clark LLP (moderator) Joanna Strozak , Associate, Mathews, Dinsdale & Clark LLP (moderator) Kevin Brown , General Counsel/Manager, Office of the Worker Adviser Odelia Gudge , General Counsel, Office of the Employer Advisor <ul style="list-style-type: none">Common time limit issues and relevant LSO Rules of Professional ConductEffective strategies for staying on top of time limit responsibilitiesTime limit extensions and the WSIAT's new Practice Direction #15 Time Extension ApplicationsWhat if a practitioner misses a time limit? What happens next?	Maggie Edwards , Manager, Stakeholder Compliance Services, WSIB Jeffrey Clarke , Practice Lead Prosecutions, WSIB <ul style="list-style-type: none">Audits versus prosecutions – how WSIB determines which files are audited and levied administrative penalties vs investigated for prosecutionWho is the prosecution team?WSIB prosecutions: offences, key legal principles and sentencing
9:40 am	Calculating Physical Impairments under the AMA Guides Lila Amara , Lawyer, WSIB (moderator) Michael Edmonds , Associate Counsel to the Chair, WSIAT (moderator) Susan Lee-Anderson , Permanent Impairment Director, WSIB Shoree , Non-Economic Loss Clinical Specialist, WSIB <ul style="list-style-type: none">Understanding the rating of common physical impairmentsAdvice for using the American Medical Association Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment (AMA Guides)When to look for ratings beyond range of motion	11:00 am Chronic and Traumatic Mental Stress: Changes and Challenges in Recent Case Law Nikki Banwait , Associate Lawyer, Filion Wakely Thorup Angeletti LLP (moderator) Tim Schjerning , Lawyer, Rae Christen Jeffries LLP (moderator) John Bartolomeo , Lawyer/Co-Director, Workers' Health and Safety Legal Clinic James Jennings , Partner, Filion Wakely Thorup Angeletti LLP <ul style="list-style-type: none">Recent shifts in the CMS and TMS case lawDevelopments in what is considered objectively traumatic for TMS entitlementDetermining "substantial work-related stressor" for CMS entitlement
10:15 am	Networking Break	11:30 am Networking Break
10:30 am	WSIB Audits & Prosecutions: When, Why, and How They Are Done? Allen Cramm , Bilingual Employer Specialist, Office of the Employer Adviser (moderator)	11:45 am Strategies for Effective Written Submissions Julia Noble , Associate Counsel to the Chair, WSIAT (moderator) Kelly Rodrigues , Solicitor, The Regional Municipality of Durham (moderator) Joanna Smith , Vice-Chair Registrar, WSIAT Natalie Perryman , Vice-Chair, WSIAT <ul style="list-style-type: none">Striking a balance between writing too much or not enoughHow to best refer to evidence and case law

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- What makes written submissions effective from the adjudicator's perspective?

12:15 pm Noteworthy Decisions**Sarah Schumacher**, Counsel to the Chair, WSIAT**Angela Powell**, Sherrard Kuzz LLP**Margaret Keys**, Legislative Interpretation Specialist,
Office of the Worker Advisor**Thomas Trudell**, Student, Hicks Morley Hamilton Stewart
Storie LLP

- Recent noteworthy decisions you need to know,
presented by experienced representatives

12:55 pm Concluding Remarks**1:00 pm** Program Concludes