



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 27, 2019

AWARE-NS CELEBRATES 10th ANNIVERSARY WITH “LEADING THE WAY: TRANSFORMING YOUR SAFETY CULTURE” SYMPOSIUM

(Halifax, NS): [Nova Scotia Health and Community Services Safety Association \(AWARE-NS\)](#), the non-profit organization working with partners to promote and improve health and safety in Health and Community Services workplaces, will celebrate its 10th anniversary by hosting a Health and Safety Leadership Symposium for front-line workers and management in health care at the Nova Scotia General Employees’ Union headquarters on May 29th.

Who: AWARE-NS, as well as speakers and panelists that include: Stuart MacLean, CEO WCB Nova Scotia, Steve Snider, CEO Halifax Bridge Commission, Jo Anne Poirier, CEO VON Society, Janet Hazelton, President Nova Scotia Nurses’ Union and Steve Foran, Author of Gratitude at Work.

What: AWARE-NS’ Annual General Meeting and Symposium – “Leading the Way: Transforming Your Safety Culture”

Where: Nova Scotia General Employees Union, 255 John Savage Ave, Dartmouth, NS

When: May 29th, 2019 – 9am to 4pm

Why: Nova Scotia’s Home Care, Long Term Care & Disability Sectors have the highest rate of injuries as reported to WCB Nova Scotia. Care providers in these fields are more likely to be injured than most other types of workers in Nova Scotia. These injuries can, and should, be prevented. The “Leading the Way: Transforming Your Safety Culture” Symposium will bring together representatives of these sectors to amplify the need for greater leadership, and more direct action, to dramatically shift the trajectory of workplace injuries in sectors that are on course to pay more than \$50 million in WCB premiums by 2023.

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Background: In 2018, AWARE-NS helped to release the report, [“Charting the Course: Report and Recommendations – Workplace Safety for Nova Scotia’s Home Care, Long Term Care & Disability Sectors”](#) as part of a larger steering committee including representatives from government, WCB Nova Scotia, employers and labour. The purpose of the report was to reduce the significant number of workplace injuries taking place in the sector, outlining 21 separate recommendations, including the development of a five year action plan.

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