

December 6, 2013

To: HSA Stewards, Directors and Members at Large

Can Work Be Safe, When Home Isn't? A National Survey

December 6 is the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women. To mark this day, the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) in partnership with the University of Western Ontario's Centre for Research & Education on Violence against Women & Children (CREVAWC) is launching the first nation-wide survey on the impact of domestic violence on workers and workplaces.

When workers experience domestic violence at home, the impacts are felt in the workplace. A recent study by Justice Canada highlights this fact by estimating that employers lose \$77.9 million annually as a result of domestic violence. But the costs, both financial and personal go far beyond that.

Canada's national survey will gather data about the prevalence and the impact of domestic violence in the workplace. It will provide made-in-Canada research that will help unions, employers, advocates and governments develop good public policy as well as negotiate workplace supports including paid leave or women's advocates during collective bargaining.

Help us learn more about the impact of domestic violence in the workplace. Fill out a 10-30 minute, anonymous online research survey at: <http://fluidsurveys.com/s/DVatWork/>

You are eligible to participate in this research study whether or not you have personally experienced or witnessed domestic violence, as long as you are 15 years of age or older.

Upon completion of the survey, you have the option to enter a draw for a tablet computer.



This research survey, which will be available online in English and French until June 6, 2014 is a partnership of the Canadian Labour Congress and research experts at the University of Western Ontario and is the first-ever Canadian national survey on this issue. The Health Sciences Association of British Columbia is proud to support this initiative.

We need your help to spread the word. The more diverse responses the project receives, from all parts of the country, the richer the data will be. This will have a significant impact in our work at the bargaining table and our public policy agenda.

December 6 is an occasion to remember young women who lost their lives to gender-based violence. But it is also a time to commit to action. Unions are uniquely placed to make a real difference to the lives of workers who may be experiencing violence in the home. And that makes work safer, for everyone.



Val Avery
President

HEALTH SCIENCES ASSOCIATION OF BC