

Ontario Society Update

This year's fall conference of VRA Ontario was held at the Courtyard Marriott Hotel in Brampton, Ontario, on November 5, 2010. The conference was a great success, with approximately 150 attendees, 10 exhibit booths, and 14 sponsors! The sessions were very interesting and topical, and included speakers from the government, legal, academia, and private sector. Expressions of interest are welcome for speakers and/or topics for upcoming seminars and next year's conference.

Fall Conference Topics and Speakers included:

Hiring and Retention of Persons with Disabilities in the Workplace

Jacki Challenger, Vice-President, Personal Banking Operations, Retail Operations, Royal Bank of Canada

Three Dimensional Ethics for the 21st Century

Ronald J. Fernandez, M.A., CRC, LMHC, Director of Waiver Services, Headway of WNY, Inc.

Canada Pension Plan Disability Program (CPPD) – Overview and Trends in Returning to Work

Jo-Anne Kuszner, Director of Program Design, Canada

Pension Plan Disability (CPPD), Ottawa

Dr. Andrew Ember, Occupational Medicine Specialist in the Medical Expertise Division, Canada Pension Plan Disability (CPPD), Ottawa

SABS Update

Albert Conforzi and **Nancy Ng**, Pace Law Firm

Managing Mental Health Return to Work

Laurie A. Down, Director, Disability Issues, Canadian Life and Health Insurance Association Inc.(CLHIA), Toronto, Ontario

Ann Morgan, President, Working for Mental Health

Reforming Work Reintegration at WSIB

Judy Geary, Vice President, Work Reintegration, Workplace Safety & Insurance Board (WSIB)

Address by Lois Brown, MP

Member of Parliament for Newmarket-Aurora, Ontario, Vice-Chair of the Conservative Party Auto Caucus

A special thanks to our sponsors!!! We couldn't do it without you!

Gold:

- Grade Learning
- Pace Law Firm

Silver:

- Northern Lights Canada

Bronze:

- Bayshore Home Health
- Automotive Training Centres
- Canadian Automotive & Training Institute
- Career Essentials/Laurel College

Exhibitors:

- Academy of Learning
- Career Quest
- Robertson
- TriArch Educational Services

Friend Sponsors:

- Howie, Sacks & Henry LLP
- McMaster University
- WSIB

The conference was followed by a well attended information session hosted by the WSIB about their upcoming recruitment drive.

The 2010 Annual General Meeting was also held during the conference. In addition to the updates provided by the Board and Committees, an important update was provided on the new College of Vocational Rehabilitation Professionals which has opened its doors and has well over 100 registrants and is growing.

Here's some of the feedback that we received on the 2010 Annual Conference, taken from the surveys that were available on location:

- *"Good one day session. Great presenters and energy felt. Job well done!"*

- *"Overall well organized conference, helpful committee members and useful exhibits. I feel I learned a lot of helpful information today that will relate back to my professional practices."*
- *"Great day!! Obviously a lot of planning went into this conference and it was greatly appreciated!!"*
- *"Excellent, and excellent! There was nothing that I didn't like about this conference – it was well done."*

We hope this positive feedback will encourage you to join us at the 2011 Conference!

Welcome!

We would like to welcome our new Board members; Laura Smillie and Marcel Quenneville! Thanks to you both for joining the VRA Ontario team and we look forward to working with you and to a productive year ahead.

We wish you a wonderful holiday season and hope that you all play safe!

Warm wishes from your
VRA Ontario Board!



Time to Renew!

Please note that it's renewal time and access to all renewal forms is on the VRA Ontario website at http://www.vracanadaon.com/join_vra.php



*Best wishes to you and yours for this
holiday season.*