How Characteristics of Workers’ Compensation Systems Affect Doctors: A Comparative Study of Québec and Ontario

Keynote Speakers

**Katherine Lippel**  
Chairholder and Full Professor  
Faculty of Law, University of Ottawa  
Katherine specializes in occupational health and safety law including issues related to workers’ compensation.

**Joan Eakin**  
Professor Emeritus, Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto  
Joan’s research focuses on the social dimensions of work and health, including the occupational health and safety system.

**Linn Holness**  
Professor University of Toronto and Physician, St Michael’s Hospital  
Linn’s research focuses on occupational disease, its prevention and health services.

**Dana Howse**  
PhD Candidate, Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto  
Dana’s dissertation research examines the compensation claiming process from the perspective of injured workers.

Time, Venue and Agenda

Thursday May 14, 2015, 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

New Location  
Charbonnel Lounge, University of St. Michael’s College in the University of Toronto  
81 St. Mary Street, Toronto, ON M5S 1J4

Agenda

**Welcome and Introduction**

**Keynote Presentation**

**Injured Worker Presentations**  
Will Noiles from St. Catharines and Daniela Ruiz from Toronto

**Panel Commentary**  
Including Laura Lunansky, Injured Workers Consultants (IWC); and David Chezzi, Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE).

**General Discussion**

**Closing Comments**

Refreshments to be served. RSVP appreciated but not necessary: BancroftInstitute@gmail.com  
The event is free, with a suggested donation of $10 for waged attendees. Tokens available for the unwaged.

Keynote Abstract

The speakers will present on their study about the challenges of medical evidence in workers’ compensation. The study examined similarities and differences between the workers’ compensation systems in Ontario and Québec and their implications for the role, practices and perspectives of doctors. Similarities included: 1) doctors played key gatekeeping roles in both systems (control access); 2) the bureaucratic process was problematic for treating physicians; 3) the doctors’ gatekeeping role was a source of discomfort and difficulty for treating physicians; 4) decisions as to work relatedness were reserved for the workers’ compensation board. Key differences included: 1) the opinion of the treating physician in Québec was binding on the board on a number of issues, and formal contestation proceedings were required if the board or employers wished to set aside those opinions; 2) Ontario physicians played somewhat different though less visible gatekeeping roles. Implications for doctors and workers will be discussed.
Accessible Entrance and Instructions for TTC Wheel-Trans Users

Access to Elmsley Hall, 81 St. Mary Street, Toronto

Stop at the dead-end loop on St. Mary Street. Use the sidewalk in front of the building to go around to the back entrance which is accessible. Please note that there’s a front entrance facing St. Mary Street, but it is not accessible, as it has two steps.

Please send us a note in advance if you need additional instructions or would like to have someone meet you at the entrance. Our email address is BancroftInstitute@gmail.com.