



# Mental Health Status of Ontario Injured Workers with Permanent Impairments

## Keynote Speaker



### Dr. Fergal O'Hagan

Assistant Professor, Trent University

As an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology at Trent University, Dr. O'Hagan teaches health psychology, behaviour modification and advanced statistics and research design.

His research program focuses on self-regulation and adaptation in the face of chronic disease as it relates to health behaviour and work participation. Dr. O'Hagan's work is dedicated to finding ways to help people adapt and heal so they can get back to work.

## Keynote Abstract

**Objective:** Each year, approximately 31,000 Canadian injured worker claimants are certified to have permanent impairments associated with the initial workplace incident. Permanent impairments are characterized by ongoing pain, and limitations in physical function and activity participation – all predisposing factors to mental health problems. In this study, researchers examine the post-accident mental health status of a sample of Ontario injured workers with permanent impairments.

**Results:** For injured workers, post-injury onset mental health problems are elevated compared to pre-injury onset in seven of nine indicators. Diagnosed depression, medication abuse, inability to concentrate, and sleep problems are elevated compared to general Canadian population prevalence. Diagnosed depression is elevated compared to populations with pain and chronic health conditions. Higher education and pre-injury income are associated with lower depressive symptoms. Men and older individuals are less likely to report a diagnosis of depression. Older individuals are less likely to report concentration problems.

**Conclusions:** These data paint a troubling mental health picture among injured workers with permanent impairments. Implications for return-to-work and income recovery, health service access and rehabilitation within and outside the compensation system are discussed.

## Time and Venue

Tuesday May 17, 2016  
10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Friends House  
60 Lowther Avenue, Toronto  
ON M5R 1C7



## Agenda

**Welcome and Introduction**

**Keynote Presentation**

**Injured Worker Presentations**

**Panel Commentary** (Nadia Collins, UNIFOR Local 707; Peri Ballantyne, PhD, Trent University; Mortimer Mamelak, MD Psychiatry)

**General Discussion**

**Closing Comments**

Refreshments will be served.

RSVP appreciated: [BancroftInstitute@gmail.com](mailto:BancroftInstitute@gmail.com)  
The event is free, with a suggested donation of \$10 for waged attendees. Tokens are available for the unwaged.

**NB: The session will be video recorded and made available at a later date.**



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