



# Canadian event professionals gather in Calgary to talk safety

“LIVE AND IN PERSON” AT LAST, the Event Safety Alliance Canada 2022 Conference (<https://esacanada.ca/page-1075389>) was held at the Palace Theatre in Calgary, AB, November 21 – 23, 2022, and welcomed over 150 attendees. This all-volunteer effort was supported by 35 generous sponsors (<https://esacanada.ca/page-1075341>), who contributed both financially and with gifts in kind. Partner organizations include CITT/ ICTS (Canadian Institute for Theatre Technology /

Institute canadien des technologies scénographiques), Canadian Live Music Association, Event Safety Alliance, Festivals & Events Ontario, and the Global Crowd Management Alliance.

Our speakers and panelists are enthusiastic working professionals from the arts, entertainment, sports, and live event sector who generously shared their experiences, expertise and perspectives. They included Tina Allmark, Charlotte Brookes, Teresa Byrne, Autumn Coppaway, Lindsay Goldsney, Superintendent



Group photo of Event Safety Alliance Canada 2022 attendees onstage.



Scott Johnson Keynote address, “Ten Years Later: Charting a Course Forward with the Scott Johnson Working Group” by Ken Johnson.



“Actsafes – Lessons for Canada from B.C.’s Arts and Entertainment Safety Leader,” presenter Don Parman.



“A Tale of Two Checkpoints – Which approach to security is best for your event?” panelist Lindsay Goldsney.

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"The Awesome Music Project & Finding Moments," presenter Stevie Tea.



"Rebuilding Effective Workforces," panelist Clark Saundh.



"Demystifying Contractor Safety," panelist Jourdan Rosell.



"Forward to Better," presenter Autumn Coppaway.



"Peer to Peer Conversations" created an opportunity for different sectors to connect with their peers to discuss some key topics.



"How to Stop When 'The Show Must Go On'," panelist Mike Rouleau.

Allison Good, Jason Gordon, Shannon Inniss, Ken Johnson, Kevin Jones, Chris Kerr, Petrina Nash, Daryl O'Dowd, Don Parman, Suzannah Patmios, Scott Pollard, Tony Potestio, Jourdan Rosell, Mike Rouleau, Paul Runnals, Clark Saundh, Janet Sellery, Adam Stewart, Cindy Sypher, Stevie Tea, Jill Volker, and CxViolet.

The conference kicked off with the Scott Johnson Keynote, presented by Scott's father, scaffolding safety expert Ken Johnson, and entertainment engineer, Cindy Sypher. Scott was the Radiohead drum technician who died on June 16, 2012, at Downsview Park in Toronto when the stage roof collapsed just before the final sound



"Preparing Your Events for Severe Canadian Weather," featured Daryl O'Dowd.



"Control Rooms of All Sizes," co-presenter Kevin Jones.



"Real Talk With our Safety Partners," panelists Petrina Nash and Allison Good.



"What's Next for Event Safety?" panelist Paul Runnals.



Event Safety Alliance Canada Board of Directors



Fraser Abbott held a White Hat Ceremony to honor Janet Sellery.

check. This session highlighted the progress of the Scott Johnson Working Group (Ontario Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development). Current work involves an extensive revision of the *Temporary Performance/Events Structures Guideline*, and a review of industry training needs and specialized

resources.

Other sessions covered topics from risk assessment, security approaches, contractor safety and severe weather, to control rooms, mental wellness, rebuilding effective workforces, collaborating with public safety partners, and show pauses/stops.

We chose to honour our speakers and panelists with a donation to The AFC (<https://afchelps.ca>), the lifeline for Canada's entertainment industry. They help Canadian entertainment professionals maintain their health, dignity, and ability to work.

Cindy Jennings announced that IATSE Canada has been awarded \$900,000 in training funds from the Ministry of Canadian Heritage, through the Canada Performing Arts Workers Resilience Fund. This temporary program (ending March 30, 2023) was designed to retain skilled workers by investing in sector-led and delivered initiatives to improve the economic, career, and personal circumstances of independent and self-employed workers in the live performance sector. In keeping with the mandate from Canadian Heritage, all training will be open to IATSE members, permittees, and non-members.

Peer to Peer Conversations were a conference highlight. Everyone was keen to connect with each other and dig into specific health

and safety challenges. The summary of these discussions will shape future Event Safety Alliance Canada programming.

After the final session, I was surprised with a White Hat Ceremony (the Calgary equivalent of the keys to the city), a truly stupendous honour.

Thanks to all our event friends who joined in and supported these inspiring conversations. We look forward to maintaining this positive energy and connecting with everyone again soon. ■



**Janet Sellery**, CRSP, CHSC, is one of Canada's leading experts in health and safety in the arts, entertainment, and live events. Janet is a former theatre stage manager. She is the Board Chair for Event Safety Alliance Canada and a board member for Event Safety Alliance (US). Her work as a Health & Safety Consultant, with Sellery Health + Safety, focuses on customizing programs, training, and resources to reflect the constantly evolving and unique demands of the events environment ([www.selleryhealthandsafety.com/](http://www.selleryhealthandsafety.com/)). Janet is committed to "setting the stage for people to create their best work." She can be reached at [janet@esacanada.ca](mailto:janet@esacanada.ca).

### For more information:

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