

How Does Violence at Home Affect Workplaces in Canada?

by Stephen Elliott-Buckley - Thursday, December 12, 2013

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Worksafe BC at least isn't keeping itself in the dark

Here is yet another stigma-laden, denial-inducing taboo topic in society and workplaces: domestic violence.

And when we connect violence at home to effects on people as workers in the workplace, we get lots of crickets.

So I'm happy to report that [Western and the CLC](#) are trying to turn on the flashlight to gather some data to see how big a problem this is, and how much we've been ignoring it as people, workers, co-workers, employers, unions and governments.

I'll give you a hint: I expect we're in pretty massive denial.

And when you consider the Harper Conservative government's murder of the long-form census, and disdain for science and data in general, we need to fight the tendency towards willful ignorance.

Here's a description of the survey and a link to take part. You don't have to be a union member to do it, by the way.

[This survey](#) looks at how domestic violence can affect Canadian workers and what kinds of supports are available in workplaces. You are being asked to participate because you are a member of one of the unions co-sponsoring this survey.

When workers are experiencing domestic violence at home, the impacts are felt in the workplace. Surveys to gather data about domestic violence in the workplace have been conducted in the U.S. and in Australia, however there is a lack of data specific to Canada, including basic knowledge about the scope of the problem and its impacts on workers, employers and workplaces.

Data is urgently needed to inform policy on how best to respond to this issue. The aims of this

study are to learn about how domestic violence is affecting workers while they are at work and to learn how often this happens in Canada.

- from [Domestic Violence in the Canadian Workplace](#)