IHSA delivers health and safety message to thousands at Canadian National Exhibition

This past August, IHSA participated in the Canadian National Exhibition (CNE) to promote the critical importance of working safely. As Canada’s largest annual public event and one of the 10 largest fairs in North America, the CNE attracts more than a million visitors every year. IHSA was there to raise awareness about the hazards of working at heights and to give valuable information to homeowners about their responsibilities when they hire contractors to work on their homes or cottages.

Over five days, more than 12,000 people visited IHSA’s booth. Many came to get their souvenir photo taken with friends and family. The photo—showing fair-goers protected by a guardrail with the Toronto skyline in the background—reminded everyone about the importance of health and safety at work so that everyone returns home safe to their loved ones.

Ministry of Labour (MOL) representatives provided great support to this event by joining IHSA staff to help get the message out. Together, they spoke to thousands of people each day about the hazards of working at heights and how to eliminate the risks. Many of us know someone who works at heights or has hired someone to work at heights. The staff at the booth reminded everyone that fall protection training, such as IHSA’s one-day Working at Heights course, is mandatory on Ontario construction sites.

The CNE proved to be an excellent place for giving out valuable information to workers and employers, as well as to homeowners who hire contractors for repairs and renovations. It also provided an opportunity to educate young workers about their rights and responsibilities on the job.

This event at the CNE came just before MOL inspectors began a two-month enforcement blitz on falls in the construction industry. During September and October, inspectors visited construction sites across the province with their focus on fall prevention and fall protection training.

Anyone can visit ihsa.ca/falls for more information about fall hazards and how to work safely.