



Association for Workplace Tragedy Family Support

Shirley Hickman, Executive Director



Shirley's and her family's lives were forever changed when they suffered a traumatic workplace tragedy. Since that time, she has focused on making a difference in workplace health and safety.

On April 28, 2009, Shirley was a guest speaker at the International Labour Organization's World Day for Safety and Health in Geneva, Switzerland and the XVIIth World Congress on Health and Safety, among others.

In 2008 she became the third recipient of the IAPA-CME Health & Safety Leadership Award, which recognizes outstanding individuals who have demonstrated a dedicated contribution to the innovation and advancement of health and safety in the workplace and/or community.

Shirley's story has been showcased in the Ontario Workplace Safety and Insurance Board's advertising campaign with the hope that heightened injury prevention awareness will save lives.

She received the 2007 YMCA of London Women of Excellence Award for Community Volunteerism and Humanity for her contribution to workplace safety in London and across Canada.

In 2002, Shirley co-founded Threads of Life – A Workplace Tragedy Family Support Association. She is currently the Executive Director of Threads of Life.

Threads of Life helps families affected by a workplace fatality, life-altering injury or occupational disease along their journey of healing. It provides these families with referrals and the only one-on-one peer support assistance program in the world that is delivered by trained Volunteer Family Guides who have also experienced a workplace tragedy. It is currently working with more than 2,000 family members from across Canada who have been affected by a workplace tragedy.

Threads of Life promotes public awareness and accountability for workplace health and safety. Its vision is to lead and inspire a culture shift as a result of which work-related injuries, illnesses and deaths are morally, socially and economically unacceptable.