

The role of CUASA explained

As several CUASA members who will be returning on campus worry about the quality of indoor air, here is what you need to know about what the Association does and can do.

1. Inform and receive information about air quality on campus

- a. CUASA Council members, office employees, and executive officers receive your questions and concerns, answer them, and bring them to the appropriate people in Carleton's administration.
- b. We act as a hub for knowledge about legislated standards and rules: Canadian (www.Canada.ca), Provincial ([Ontario Human Rights Code](#), [Occupational Health and Safety Act](#) (OHSA), [Employment Standards Act](#), etc.) and local (CA, University policies and procedures)
- c. You can support this effort and benefit from it by:
 - i. Writing to the office – we have answered several messages and conversations. LeAnne Parrish, Office Manager, is in charge of the Health and Safety portfolio (leanne.parrish@cuasa.ca).
 - ii. Ask/tell your Council representative: the list is on CUASA's website [here](#) – several Council members have been busy conveying the concerns of members of their units
 - iii. Ask for CUASA officers to visit to your unit
 - iv. Fill CUASA surveys – the current "CUASA Fall 2022 Campus COVID Safety Survey" arrived in your email is open until September 8

2. Participate in the review and implementation of policies to maintain air quality on campus.

- a. Two CUASA representatives are members of the [Joint Health and Safety Committee](#): James Green (jrgreen@sce.carleton.ca) and Dominique Marshall (dominique_marshall@carleton.ca)

The committee required by the Ontario Health and Safety Act, which meets three times a year and has the power and responsibility to:

- i. Hold the University accountable to legal standards The standards are determined by the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers ([ASHRAE](#)). The University hires a company of 3rd party licensed engineers to conduct inspections. The most recent ones were conducted in 2021. The results are shared with members of the JHSC. CUASA representatives have read them, and are following up on questions such as the calendar of filter changes
- ii. Partner in the inspection of each building annually for compliance to the OHSA and hold the university responsible for the implementation of its recommendations in a timely manner.
- iii. Make policy policy recommendations

3. Participate in province and Canada wide advocacy and data gathering

- a. CUASA officers participate in OCUFA, and OCUFA communicates also directly with CUASA members.
 - i. Here is [what OCUFA does about air quality](#)
 - ii. Here is what [CAUT does about health and safety](#)

- iii. Occasionally unions launch larger court actions. To our knowledge this has not happened yet in Ontario, but there was an interesting case in Quebec in 2021 where [Quebec teachers' unions take province to court over air quality in classrooms](#)
- b. CUPE, the largest union of public employees, and the federation for many unions on campus, discuss air quality in institutions of education for instance [here](#).