IHSA wants to be your partner for health and safety, and we’re working hard to earn your confidence.”

We need to get creative and do things we haven’t done before. In this magazine, you’ll read about some of the actions you can take to prevent injuries, illnesses, and death in your workplace. I ask that you consider them seriously for the sake of your own well-being, and the well-being of those in your care.

IHSA is making changes too.

Your safety association

Leaders in Ontario’s health and safety system recognized that to change the statistics of injury, illness, and death, the health and safety associations themselves had to change. They had to put more money where the value is: in front-line service to employers and workers.

That was one of our promises a year ago, and I’m pleased to report that we have kept our promise. In October 2009, when the amalgamation process began, IHSA’s three legacy organizations had a combined total of 84 front-line staff. Today, a year later, IHSA has 95. By the end of this year we’ll have 97 field staff, and in 2011 we hope to get to 114.

We’ve done this by reducing our back-room costs and by making many of our internal processes more efficient. Our free monthly email magazine Health and Safety News is one example. Many of our members actually get more prevention information via email while IHSA saves printing costs that can be redirected to the front line.

IHSA is also offering new, valuable services to members like you.

I’m particularly proud of our new Working at Heights—Fundamentals of Fall Prevention training program (see the centre pullout in this issue). IHSA led a working group to draft a new training standard for fall protection in Ontario. We then created the Working at Heights program to comply with that standard. We’ve already started offering it throughout the province. I encourage you to register yourself or your staff.

In 2011, IHSA will sponsor a new Safety Group for construction firms. Those of you familiar with Safety Groups know that companies can receive substantial rebates on their WSIB premiums through the program. We’re making it possible for construction firms from across the province to participate, so sign up now before spaces fill up. If you’re not from construction, ask us about our transportation Safety Group and our electrical & utilities Safety Group.

IHSA is also offering companies new ways to improve their health and safety management systems. For example, we’re offering help to firms that want to implement the OHSAS 18001 standard.

The best way to stay informed about new services and everything else that IHSA can do for you is by subscribing to our free email magazine Health and Safety News. To sign up, send a message to info@ihsa.ca.

IHSA wants to be your partner for health and safety, and we’re working hard to earn your confidence.

We encourage you to join us in making our shared vision of zero workplace injuries, illnesses, and deaths a reality.

Al Beattie
Interim President and CEO