



THSAO



# CEO message

## 2012: The year in review

As we come to the end of another year as the Infrastructure Health and Safety Association, I look back with pride on our achievements so far. Our long and storied history of providing high-quality health and safety education to Ontario's workers began in 1914 when the Workmen's Compensation Act was passed, creating the Workmen's Compensation Board and permitting the establishment by employers of sector-specific safety associations. In 1915, the Electrical & Utilities Safety Association—one of IHSA's legacy organizations—was given the mandate to deliver safety education in a sector that was struggling with a 50 per cent mortality rate.

The Construction Safety Association of Ontario was formed in 1929 and the Transportation Health and Safety Association in 1942 to offer safety education in other high-risk sectors. So, prevention is not new for us—we have been providing high-quality sector-specific health and safety education for a combined 250 years. It's our history, but it's also the foundation we continue to build upon for the future.

While our first year as IHSA was focused on uniting our associations and establishing our new identity, our second year was about taking steps towards what we wanted to achieve in the future. In 2011, we developed a three-year strategic plan that is dependent upon IHSA's ability to create unique value. In 2012, we focused on putting this strategic plan into action.



With the experience and expertise of our three legacy associations, we have built a one-of-a-kind organization that delivers high-risk-activity programs and materials to our members. No one else in Ontario's prevention system offers the quality and scope of training that we do. We provide 85 unique training programs, and we continue to provide 22 programs and 44 products at no charge to members. Thanks



to our service-delivery model and our highly skilled team of regional trainers and consultants, we have the unique ability to offer all our educational programs on demand, anywhere in Ontario.

IHSA's commitment to quality is unmatched, and our philosophy of safety education through skills development will continue to make Ontario workers the safest in the world. Yet there is always more to be done. I have spent the past year travelling throughout the province and introducing our strategic plan to stakeholders. One question I am often asked is, after 97 years of facilitating the safety education mandate in Ontario, what is needed to make further improvements?

In my opinion, the answer is mandatory training standards. We desperately need a governing body to develop standards, establish curricula, and authorize training-delivery agents in order to facilitate effective training methodologies, including evaluation programs for high-risk activities. To that end, we have been working actively with the Chief Prevention Officer (CPO) to develop training standards and a health and safety strategy for Ontario.

Each new year brings new accomplishments and new challenges, and I am enthusiastic about the

opportunities that now lie ahead of us. We continue to expand stakeholder engagement through our network of Labour-Management Committees, Advisory Councils, and Fleet Safety Councils. We are collaborating with stakeholders and other agencies to expand our capacity and reach out to new markets. Our

new Centre for Educational Excellence initiative will ensure the quality of our deliverables by improving the excellence of our instructors and by embedding evaluation and ROI methodologies into our high-risk training programs. We will continue to take advantage of new technologies and training-delivery formats to reach small businesses and vulnerable workers. Many things may change, but our goal will always stay the same—the continued health and safety of Ontario workers.



**Al Beattie**, President and CEO