

# Message from IHSA's CEO

**Al Beattie**

Interim President and CEO



## A vision of the future

It's almost a year now since our founding organizations came together to form the Infrastructure Health & Safety Association (IHSA). It's the perfect time to give you a brief report.

The vision that has guided our work over the past year is *the elimination of all workplace injuries, illnesses, and fatalities within our member firms*. We believe that this vision is not only ours, but is shared by you and every conscientious employer and worker in the province.

It's clear, however, that we all have a lot of hard work to do to get there. So far this year, in the industries IHSA serves, 30 workers have died from injuries sustained on the job. 30 people went to work one day and never came home. So far this year, over 20,000 workers have been injured on the job.

We can, however, change what happens during the rest of this year and on into the future. That's because every single injury is preventable. We know this. We can look into the circumstances behind every one of the incidents this year and identify the precise moment when something could have—and should have—been done to stop it.

**“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](mailto: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**

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