



Dear Members,

Ontario's health and safety system is evolving. On February 19, the board of directors of the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) approved a business plan to re-align the province's health and safety system. The purpose of this plan is to achieve a more aligned, collaborative and coordinated prevention system.

Realignment will see Ontario's 12 health and safety associations consolidated into four new associations. One of these new associations will include MASHA (Mines and Aggregates Safety and Health Association), OFSWA (Ontario Forestry Safe Workplace Association) and PPHSA (Pulp and Paper Health and Safety Association). All three associations already share head office space in North Bay.

With the approval of the business plan for realignment, the next phase of this work is now underway. This will involve incorporating the new association, hiring a Chief Executive Officer, and the many other transitions required to make the new organization successful. Our objective is to have the new organization in full operation by January 2010. Our collective assurance to you during this period of change is to remain committed to our high level of sector-specific service and to assisting you, our members and customers. Our three associations are working together to set priorities and gauge the key issues, while maintaining focus on front-line service and eliminating injuries and illnesses in the workplaces we serve. Our structure may change, but the human face of it – our consultants, trainers and support staff – will remain in place.

This is a significant time in our history and the history of health and safety in Ontario. We feel it is important that we take leadership and begin the process by talking, sharing and planning together. We know that you will also have valued contributions to make to the new organization, and we all look forward to your support. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact your field consultant or a member of the management team of the association that serves you.

The WSIB has adopted a strategy called The Road to Zero, and our three associations share the vision of a province in which workplace injuries and illnesses have been eliminated. The board of directors and management of MASHA, OFSWA and PPHSA are working closely with the WSIB to ensure that the changes to the prevention system will help our members achieve that vision.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ric deMeulles".

Ric deMeulles
President and General Manager, MASHA

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cecil Demers".

Cecil Demers, CRSP
Chief Executive Officer, OFSWA

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Andre".

Paul Andre, CEP, CRSP
Interim Chief Executive Officer, PPHSA