



Message from the President and CEO

Now that winter is behind us, we can embrace spring and look forward to summer. At ESAO, we are busy getting ready for our conference in May and I hope many of you will attend this event, as we have a fantastic lineup of sessions and guest speakers.

In our last newsletter, I provided an update on the prevention system realignment. Since that time, much has happened. On February 19th, the WSIB Board of Directors approved the business plan for the realignment of the Ontario health and safety system, as presented. The next phase of the realignment work has already begun. To view the WSIB business plan for realignment, please [click here](#).

Ontario's 12 health and safety associations (HSAs) will merge into four new associations. One of these new groups, presently called the Government Services entity, will include the Education Safety Association of Ontario, along with the Ontario Safety Association for Community and Healthcare (OSACH), and Municipal Health and Safety Association (MHSA). The formation of these new associations will be phased in between now and the end of the year. The Government Services entity will probably be formed by September 2009.

New CEOs for the associations will be chosen first, followed by the setup of new Boards of Directors. Discussions regarding the transitions that will need to take place within and between our associations in order for our new organizations to be successful have already begun and will continue over the next few months. While these changes are taking place, let me assure you that we remain committed to our high level of service and focus on assisting you.

This is a critical time in the history of health and safety in Ontario. As we come closer to celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Internal Responsibility System as the underpinning of the Occupational Health and Safety Act in Ontario, it is fitting that we ensure that the realignment efforts are successful and will make the prevention system in Ontario even stronger.

Wishing you a safe season,

Randy Plener
President and CEO
Education Safety Association of Ontario