



Winter 2008-2009

Dear OSSA *Safety Mosaic* readers

It's been a year none of us will forget—in every industry and business, around the world and right here at home.

The rapidly evolving news on the global market downturn, has combined with more long-standing pressures to make change and transformation the daily expectation.

Now, more than ever, it's important for businesses to focus on fundamentals that have a positive impact on productivity and cost-savings. An effective health and safety program is a giant step in that direction.

Ontario statistics show that while we've made progress in past years, much more remains to be done. The cost of days lost to injury and illness continues to escalate, creating a financial and emotional burden for workers, industry and society alike.

The WSIB is addressing this challenge courageously in its *2008-2012 Road to Zero* strategy, which sets out a framework to achieve zero injuries, illnesses and fatalities in Ontario. Every partner in Ontario's prevention system has a role to play.

Your focus as a business must include a prevention program that reduces illnesses and injuries in your workplace, by a minimum of seven per cent a year, in order to maintain the status quo on the annual premiums you currently pay. It's an achievable goal, as successful companies demonstrate year after year.

The WSIB has also redesigned the way services are delivered to your firm. The new model is being implemented in phases, and is designed to help businesses drive down "persistence." [See page 5 of the *Winter 2008-2009* edition of *OSSA Safety Mosaic*, available at ossa.com, for more info.]

Also, Ontario's health and safety service associations, including OSSA, will soon look different. In rapidly changing times, a well developed and proactive response to Ontario's economy and its future must be our reality, too. In 2009, we will be consolidating from 12 health and safety organizations to four, pushing resources to the front line and streamlining our support services so that we can reach more of you. Our commitment is to help you drive down lost-time incidents, manage risk, and make health and safety a "habit" in your workplace. More on this in our next edition of *The Safety Mosaic*.

We are excited and energized about the positive and tangible steps we are taking toward "zero," and know that you share our passion for a healthier, safer Ontario. It is this greater good that will energize us all through a year of new challenges and aspirations.

We hope you enjoy this issue of *The Safety Mosaic*, and we wish you a safe, happy and healthy new year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth Mills". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "E".

Elizabeth Mills, President and CEO