

# Health & Safety Leadership Charter in Saskatchewan



## THE SILENT EPIDEMIC

Most residents of our province feel that Saskatchewan is a safe place to live and work. We don't have earthquakes, mudslides or hurricanes. In reality, Saskatchewan people are getting hurt and dying every day from a less obvious cause.

Saskatchewan compares unfavorably to all other jurisdictions in Canada for on and off-the-job injuries. Our province has the second worst workplace time loss injury record in the country. Outside the workplace, our injury hospitalization rate is twice the national average, and Saskatchewan people die of injuries 1.4 times more often than anywhere else in Canada.

Unintentional injuries—such as motor vehicle collisions, drownings, falls, machinery injuries, electrocution, and poisonings—have a negative impact on Saskatchewan communities, their growth and viability, and they adversely affect your organization.

Whether injuries occur at work or at home, the impact on the individual, the family, the workplace, and the economy is the same. They cost our families and our communities emotionally, and impact our workplaces and our province financially. Every year, all preventable injuries in Saskatchewan create a drain of \$1 billion on the provincial economy, through the health care system, Workers' Compensation Program, SGI, and other insurer disability costs.

## SASKATCHEWAN'S SOLUTION

As employers—as leaders in the community—we need to be seen to be part of the solution, not creators of the problem. Safe Saskatchewan and WorkSafe Saskatchewan believe our organizations, employees, and communities all deserve to live injury-free, healthy lives. Injuries are not accidents. Together, we can put a stop to this epidemic.

An injury-free Saskatchewan where safe lifestyles influence how we live, work and play is within our reach. That's our vision for Saskatchewan. Our goal is to facilitate a change in the attitudes, beliefs and behaviour in our society. As partners in injury prevention, we must be relentless in our quest to eliminate preventable injuries in our province.

Any "cultural shift" must begin with a commitment made by the leader. Injury reduction is no different, and occurs when the leaders of a company establish safety as a value—not a priority. A value is something that is ingrained in every facet of an organization, and it does not change. The Health & Safety Leadership Charter is a public commitment that safety is a key value for you and your company. Please join us as we make Mission: Zero our quest. We invite you to partner with us to make it yours and to lead this province into a new era of injury prevention.

## WE NEED YOU

In future years, signatories of the charter will reconvene annually to report on progress, success, and outcomes at a Leadership Forum. This is an important part of the "made in Saskatchewan" approach.

This business to business communication and collaboration in injury prevention and healthy workforce will be key to improving Saskatchewan's injury prevention and population health. As community leaders publicly support the Health & Safety Leadership Charter and the value of health and safety in all areas of life, we believe the wider population of Saskatchewan will embrace a culture where health and safety is paramount. By working together, Saskatchewan business leaders can be instrumental in improving the lives of Saskatchewan people, enhancing the economic environment for business, and saving millions of dollars in health and social costs, one workplace and one community at a time.

## BY SIGNING THE HEALTH & SAFETY LEADERSHIP CHARTER, LEADERS COMMIT THEIR SUPPORT TO THE FOLLOWING:

- To subscribe to the principle that nothing is more important than the health, safety and well-being of employees, contractors, clients, customers, visitors and, if and whenever possible, the surrounding community.
- To integrate health and safety into business strategies, processes and performance measures, and to recognize that good health and safety performance supports good business results.
- To effectively manage health and safety risks by eliminating, minimizing or controlling hazards.
- To strive for continuous health and safety improvement and to provide the leadership and internal capacity to make this happen.
- To provide an environment that enables all employees to participate and work collaboratively in developing, promoting, and improving health and safety at work.
- To extend health and safety efforts, if and whenever possible, beyond the workplace, recognizing and supporting related initiatives within the community.
- To participate within a health and safety leadership learning community, by providing and receiving information and best practices, with the goal of continuously improving health and safety strategies, programming and performance

## YOUR RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Charter signatories share many reasons for supporting the Health & Safety Leadership Charter. This is an opportunity to be a leader in a provincial movement and reap the reward of seeing improved health and safety of your employees, their families and the communities within which they reside.

Fewer injuries and healthier employees mean reduced costs for all of us. Saskatchewan is hospitalizing people at twice the national average for unintentional injuries. The cost of these injuries and their impact on our health care system directly affects all of us as taxpayers.

Health care costs are making up an ever-increasing share of many budgets. Taking injury costs out of the equation can stabilize and reduce costs.

All signatories benefit from:

- visibility as a community leader and a positive corporate citizen;
- recognition as an injury prevention champion;
- enhanced employee engagement;
- safer and more sustainable Saskatchewan communities; and

an opportunity to engage within a provincial and national health and safety leadership learning community that provides and receives best practices for enhancement of employee physical, social and mental well-being.

There are also financial gains to be made by extending injury prevention and healthy environment beyond the workplace. Employees of contributing companies become more aware of injury prevention and healthy practices—on and off-the-job—resulting in fewer injuries, and improved physical, social and mental health. This leads to less absenteeism, decreased costs to your organization and increased profitability.

Join us—together we will make a measurable difference by reducing the impact of unintentional injuries in Saskatchewan.

## GET INVOLVED

Saskatchewan executive leaders can join the Health & Safety Leadership Charter by contacting WorkSafe Saskatchewan or Safe Saskatchewan indicating your interest in signing the charter.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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