



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Safe Saskatchewan Releases its First Annual Report**

**Regina, Thursday, June 11, 2009:** Safe Saskatchewan celebrates the release of its first annual report today. From a grassroots movement to a not-for-profit organization, this injury prevention collaborative has grown with a stronger governance model, the creation of a Board of Directors, and the release of the Safe Saskatchewan 2008 Annual Report.

“Safe Saskatchewan’s maturity as an organization is an important milestone to acknowledge,” comments Peter Federko, President of Safe Saskatchewan and Chief Executive Officer of the Saskatchewan Workers’ Compensation Board. “The importance of injury prevention drives this organization because while Saskatchewan workers need to work safe, they also need to live safe and encourage their families to do the same.”

Saskatchewan is one of the worst provinces in Canada for unintentional injuries. The injury hospitalization rate is over two times higher in this province and the death rate from injury is 1.4 times higher. According to the SmartRisk Economic Burden of Injury report, Saskatchewan spends \$595 million dollars every year on preventable injuries. When this amount is indexed into today's dollar value and when workers' compensation and other disability insurer costs are added, a conservative estimate of the true economic burden equals \$1 billion.

By increasing awareness and reducing injury off-the-job, this amount could greatly be reduced. “And that’s the ultimate goal,” says Gord Moker, Chief Executive Officer of Safe Saskatchewan. “Changing the way people think about taking risks that result in injuries takes everyone working together.” Safe Saskatchewan has been active for over five years now, enlisting organizations from throughout Saskatchewan to extend injury prevention awareness. “We wouldn’t be where we are today, without the support and work of numerous individuals and organizational partners,” adds Moker, “I invite everyone to read our story in the 2008 Annual Report to learn how we are slowly changing the safety culture embedded in our province.”

The Annual Report, which can be found at [www.safesask.com](http://www.safesask.com), touches on key milestones in 2008 and outlines Safe Saskatchewan’s Three-Year Strategic and Operational Plan with the following strategic priorities:

1. **Injury Prevention:** Support and facilitate the coordination of injury prevention programs and services throughout the province.
2. **Public Awareness:** Raise awareness of Safe Saskatchewan and our province’s unintentional injury epidemic.
3. **Fund Development:** Secure the financial future of Safe Saskatchewan by seeking out and obtaining ongoing financial resources.

### **About Safe Saskatchewan**

Safe Saskatchewan is a consortium of public, private, non-profit and cooperative sector founders. The not-for-profit organization aims to raise awareness of the impact of unintentional injuries in Saskatchewan, coordinate provincial injury prevention initiatives, and support all organizations and programs undertaking injury prevention in the province.

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