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## HEALTH & SAFETY LEADERSHIP CHARTER RECEIVES ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

SASKATOON: This afternoon, over 70 Saskatchewan leaders declared their commitment to the health and safety of their employees and communities by adding their name to the already impressive list of 200 business, government and community leaders who signed the Charter in 2010. Sponsored by Safe Saskatchewan, the Health & Safety Leadership Charter is the first and only one of its kind in Saskatchewan.

"We recognize that a cultural shift must begin with a commitment made by leaders," says Gord Moker, CEO of Safe Saskatchewan. "An important role for us is bringing leaders together at the same health and safety discussion, connecting them with each other, and providing them with the opportunity to share and engage with other government, business and community leaders."

Signatories of the Charter become part of a much larger network, a provincial movement that reaps the rewards of being part of the solution. Seeing an improvement in the quality of life for Saskatchewan residents and enhancing the economic environment for business are but two examples of these rewards.

"The signing of the Charter is a symbolic event marking a leader's commitment to health and safety as a core value. To create the cultural change we are seeking for our Province and achieve Mission Zero, the Charter must be put into measurable action. It has been one year since the inaugural Charter event and it's now time to come back together, share our experiences, welcome new signatories, and continue to advocate for the elimination of unintentional injuries in our organizations and in our communities," explains Peter Federko, President of Safe Saskatchewan and Chief Executive Officer of the Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Board. "Regardless of whether injuries occur at work or at home, the impact on the individual, their family, and friends, and on the economy is the same. It goes without saying that the cost of pain and suffering is immeasurable."

### Fast Facts:

- Unintentional injury means an injury caused by an incident such as a fall, motor vehicle collision, drowning, poisoning, electrocution, etc.
- Saskatchewan has the second worst workplace time-loss injury record in the country.
- Saskatchewan's off-the-job injury rate is twice that of the workplace injury rate, the permanent disability rate is four times higher and the death rate is five times higher.
- Saskatchewan's injury hospitalization rate is twice the national average.
- Saskatchewan's death rate from preventable injuries is 1.4 times higher than the national average.
- Unintentional injuries have a negative impact on the individual, their family, their workplace and Saskatchewan communities' growth and viability.
- Every year, preventable injuries create a drain of \$1 billion on the provincial economy.

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**Safe Saskatchewan** is a provincial consortium of public, private, cooperative and non-profit sector founding partner organizations. 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.  
[www.safesask.com](http://www.safesask.com)

**Mission: Zero** was founded in 2008 by WorkSafe Saskatchewan (the partnership between the Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Board and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety) as an initiative to eliminate workplace injuries in Saskatchewan. In 2010, Safe Saskatchewan adopted *Mission: Zero*. The intent behind *Mission: Zero* is to promote the belief that injuries are predictable and preventable and the only acceptable number of injuries is ZERO, both in and away from Saskatchewan workplaces.

