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MEDIA BACKGROUND

Saskatchewan's Unintentional Injury Epidemic

- Saskatchewan compares unfavorably to all other jurisdictions in Canada for on and off-the-job injuries.
- Whether injuries occur at work or at home, the impact of this 'silent epidemic' 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.
- 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.

About the Health & Safety Leadership Charter

- Safe Saskatchewan believes our organizations, employees and communities all deserve to live injury-free, healthy lives. The Health & Safety Leadership Charter was created to gather leaders in our province together so they could publicly declare their support for the continuous improvement of healthy and safe workplaces and communities.
- Last year, approximately 200 Saskatchewan organizations subscribed to the principle that nothing is more important than the health, safety and well-being of employees, contractors, clients, customers, visitors and the surrounding community.
- There were three Health & Safety Leadership Charter events hosted in 2010: the inaugural event on June 10, 2010 in Regina, the Saskatoon event co-hosted with the help of the North Saskatoon Business Association on September 1, 2010, and the Humboldt event co-hosted with the Humboldt Chamber of Commerce.
- The purpose of the Health & Safety Leadership Charter was to form the foundation for a cultural shift in the way Saskatchewan leaders view injuries and injury prevention. After committing their organization to the Charter, all signatories became members of the Leadership Learning Community.
- The Leadership Learning Community is focused on business-to-business communication and collaboration in injury prevention and healthy workforce such as best practices for the enhancement of employee physical, social and mental well-being.
- The Leadership Learning Community will take on many forms as the number of signatories grow and diversify. Community touch points are currently being developed and considered as Safe Saskatchewan learns more about signatory needs and expectations.
- The June 9, 2011 Health & Safety Leadership Charter event's purpose is to reconnect current Charter signatories, welcome new signatories, and discuss organizational health and safety solutions. Charter signatories will continue to reconvene annually to report on progress, success, and outcomes within their leadership learning community.

