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SGI signs safe work charter

Saskatchewan feels a little safer as nearly 200 community and business leaders recently signed Health and Safety Leadership Charters pledging a commitment to eliminating unintentional injuries in the workplace, home and at play.



SGI President and CEO **Andrew Cartmell** and VP of Human Resources and Corporate Services **Tamara Erhardt** were on hand June 10 to show our commitment to safety at the event hosted by [WorkSafe Saskatchewan](#), [Safe Saskatchewan](#) and the [Mission Zero](#) initiative.

"It shows safety is important to us," Supervisor of Employee Health and Safety, **Kim Meyer**, said of the signing of the charter. "It's important because employee injuries are a concern."

Meyer explained the intent of the charter isn't just to get companies and employees thinking of safety in the workplace – though that is an important part, as Saskatchewan has the second-highest workplace injury rate in the country. The charter focuses on all unintentional injuries to help get people thinking of safety all the time. Unintentional injuries are described as injuries from a fall, drowning, poisoning, electrocution or even motor vehicle collisions.

"Safety in the community is very important," said Meyer. "It's a big focus for the company, especially when it comes to traffic safety and preventing motor vehicle collisions and the injuries that result from them. That alone makes SGI's charter signing doubly important."

All charter signees will reconvene to report on progress, success and outcomes at an annual Leadership Forum.

Making safety top of mind

For most of us, the signing of the charter won't immediately affect our work or home lives. But Meyer hopes a "safety culture" will develop within SGI – and the province – as a result of this commitment.

"Safety can't be done from a central office," she said. "It's an individual responsibility, not just a corporate one. My goal is to have safety implemented in everything we do."

That means you may learn about ladder safety or trip hazards for your job, but Meyer hopes we'll take that knowledge home with us, use it there and share it with our family members.

"We want you to come to work healthy and injury-free everyday," said Meyer, "and we want you to go home to your family the same way every evening."