



Re-alignment update: interim board begins CEO search

The Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) and Ontario's Health and Safety Associations (HSAs) are working toward making significant change to the structure of the HSAs and how they provide service.

Over the course of 2009, HSAs will be working toward a streamlining of services, with a stronger emphasis on prevention services.

Ontario's 12 health and safety associations are being distilled to four, leading to visible efficiencies in the system and more staff where they are needed most: on the front lines. There will be a renewed focus on employers and workers and the four new associations will provide, on a phased basis, a standard bundle of products or services to assist small business and vulnerable workers.

Under the new system, the Electrical & Utilities Safety Association will join forces with its peers at the Construction Safety Association of Ontario and the Transportation Health and Safety Association of Ontario. Other HSAs will merge to focus on government/Schedule II companies, manufacturing, service and farm safety as well as a northern HSA to serve the companies in Northern Ontario. For an indefinite period CSAO, E&USA and THSAO members will continue to be served by CSAO, E&USA and THSAO respectively and not be covered by the Northern safety association.

The interim board, which consists of representation from all three associations and their respective boards, will begin the process of selecting the inaugural chief executive officer at the end of June. Advertising for the position will begin June 22 and will be a comprehensive search. While this will be a time of transition, CSAO, E&USA and THSAO assures their respective membership that there will be constant communication throughout the process.