

Hon. Steven W. Mahoney P.C.
Chair
Président du conseil

To Employers and Workers of Ontario:

We are all working to overcome today's unprecedented economic downturn. Cost-savings and maintaining profitability and jobs are 'top of mind' as companies retrench to remain competitive.

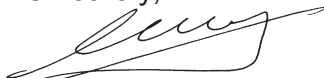
Over the past two and a half years, I have met with business associations, labour groups, municipal officials and individual workers across Ontario. I consistently repeat the message that exemplary workplace health and safety practices belong on the 'asset side' of the ledger. The majority of Ontario's employers understand this. They have adopted meaningful practices to prevent workplace incidents.

Now, more than ever, focusing on health and safety in the workplace will reap much-needed financial returns for Ontario's employers. Exemplary workplace safety practices translate into stable jobs and happier, more productive workers while saving money and contributing to profitability.

The WSIB is not isolated from these economic challenges. We too are undertaking a critical assessment of the programs and services we deliver and while prevention is paramount; there are programs we must critically evaluate given today's new financial reality. We will be working with all stakeholders in a cooperative effort to continually improve Ontario's workplace safety and insurance system.

In this extraordinary economic time, I encourage you to redouble your efforts in the prevention of workplace injuries. We must make certain Ontario's workers are safe, healthy and productive – together we can help facilitate the renewal of our province's economy.

Sincerely,



The Hon. Steven W. Mahoney, P.C.
Chair
Workplace Safety and Insurance Board