I’d like to start off by saying that we really had an amazing year! Your Association received a lot of positive attention in 2016, thanks to the hard work of our dedicated staff, Board of Directors, and you — our industry leaders who support our safety programs and extend our message to workers and other employers across Saskatchewan.

This summer, we received a very special legacy gift in the name of Andrew Hann, a young scaffolder who died in a workplace tragedy that you can read more about in this issue of the Safety Advocate. The custom-engineered fall protection demonstration trailer we received was put on the road in May, and since that time, literally thousands of workers and young people have seen the demonstrations and our team in action. This piece of equipment has helped us increase awareness and drive home key safety messages about one of the most common and most life-threatening hazards on worksites.

We also spent a lot of time engaging educational institutions, such as Saskatchewan Polytechnic and the Hill and Levene Schools of Business at the University of Regina; collaborating on mutually-beneficial opportunities that will enhance our training programs and advance the safety education of professionals in our province.

Our message about reducing human and financial losses has received a great deal of attention from the business community. As one example, we had an opportunity to make a presentation to the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce about the importance of safety management for the success of businesses. This message is also capturing the attention of professionals in the financial sector, who are also seeing the benefits of mitigating risks by using methodical safety programs, like COR®, as an indicator of company stability and reliability.

The SCSA continues its work to remain relevant to the construction industry and their consumers. A notable win was realized in June when, with the strong support and leadership of the Saskatoon and Region Home Builders’ Association (SRHBA), the City of Saskatoon approved and announced new safety training requirements for homebuilders purchasing lots from the Saskatoon Land Branch. This is a very positive step forward to improving safety in our residential construction sector, which sees the highest rate of injury in the construction industry. You can read the full story on this exciting news in this issue as well. We look forward to working with other industry partners to influence these kinds of positive policy changes.

While we’ve had challenges over the past year, it has been rewarding and there continues to be excitement amongst our staff and Board as we continuously work to gain collective improvements in the safety outcomes of our industry in 2017. We look forward to working through the challenges and celebrating the wins we are yet to face. We hope you will join us in this ongoing journey to making workplaces in Saskatchewan healthy, strong, and injury-free.

Stay Safe Friends,

Collin Pullar, SCSA President