It has been an exciting year for the Saskatchewan Construction Safety Association (SCSA) members, one of change and recognition.

In early May, the SCSA was proud to make two announcements. First, in response to member feedback, five additional topics were added to the Guide to OHS Legislation app that was released last September: Harassment; Working Alone; First Aid; Duties of the Employer, Supervisor, Contractor and Prime Contractor; and Protection for Electrical Workers. Thousands have taken advantage of this free app, downloading it from either the Apple or Google stores.

Second, the SCSA announced a new partnership with White Rabbit VR, a division of Twisted Pair Productions, to develop 360-degree virtual reality experiences for the safety training environment in Saskatchewan.

“One of the cool things about this partnership is that virtual reality takes the way we teach – in the classroom, on the work site, in demos – to a whole new level,” explains SCSA President Collin Pullar. “Our board is excited to bring these tools to the industry. This changes the game for us in so far as building stronger impressions in learning. It gives the user experience in navigating dangerous situations in the construction environment in a safe way.”

The SCSA board has gone through early but significant changes, including renewing its governance model, mission statement and governance practices with the adoption of new bylaws, and restructuring earlier this year.

Growth, change, and revitalization of an organization are never easy but the work and dedication of the SCSA board, management team and staff is being noticed. The association was recognized in March with a Regina and District Chamber of Commerce Paragon Award for Marketing and Promotional Excellence and in April with a Better Business Bureau Business Ethics Award.

Collin elaborates: “We have learned over the years telling people how to stay safe isn’t enough to overhaul a culture that has historically struggled with safety, anything that is going to affect a change in an organization and a province, has to be done at the leadership level. Our new mission – Constructing Safety Leadership – is entirely about supporting safety leaders.”

A key strategic focus of the SCSA Board of Directors has been modernizing services for members represented the construction industry, be that current best practices, up-to-date tools or technological innovations.

The Saskatchewan Construction Safety Association was founded by a group of business leaders who stepped up and voiced the opinion that things had to change – too many people were getting injured and losing their lives at work. The organization today is a legacy of that leadership and the commitment to safety that the founding companies embraced; and has changed the economy with respect to the costs associated with injuries and fatalities.