



**SASKATCHEWAN  
CONSTRUCTION SAFETY  
ASSOCIATION**

# Safety is Quality

For anyone looking to build a new home, selecting a quality professional builder that you can trust is crucial to you and your family. Your home is the single largest personal investment you will likely make in your lifetime. It's important that things are done right at all stages of the project. As a homebuyer, should the safety management of your builder be of any particular interest? Does selecting a builder, with nationally-recognized safety management practices bring additional quality and value to my purchase as a consumer?

The short answer to both of these important questions is a big YES. A new homeowner dreads the phone call from their builder telling them that their date of possession has been moved due to some unforeseen delays or shortage of skilled labour. Even more uncomfortable, is to move into your new home and find a number of deficiencies over time that occurred because the builder's "best person" was hurt and unavailable to finish the job to the standard of quality you agreed to.

Some of the most trusted brand names in quality professional home building in Saskatchewan have set themselves apart by achieving and maintaining the Saskatchewan Construction Safety Association's (SCSA) Certificate of Recognition (COR®) – the national standard in safety certification. COR is a sign that a company has implemented an effective safety management system. Homebuilders who invest in safety management systems are not only protecting their workers, they are investing in methodical practices for becoming higher-performing companies. These are the types of companies that are able to deliver quality homes to consumers that are completed on time, on budget, with fewer risks of delays and unforeseen costs, associated with injuries.

Fewer risks can give you, as a homebuyer, greater confidence in the builder you've entrusted with your investment. It can also give you a pretty clear picture of what kind of product you can expect. When you see COR, you can be more confident that you are getting the best value and a smooth experience with a company that does not take shortcuts with safety, and in turn, quality. COR certified companies pay close attention to the details that keep their best craftspeople from incurring injuries and other damages which can impact the costs, timelines, and quality of your finished home.

This summer, the City of Saskatoon changed contractor eligibility criteria, requiring home builders to complete mandatory builder training and safety certification in order to qualify for purchasing city-owned lots. Embedding safety measures in the residential construction industry where we see high rates of injury, year-over-year, is a step in the right direction for our province. Additionally, companies will see noticeable improvements to business operations with the addition of safety training and certification requirements.

Leading professional homebuilders in Saskatchewan are also beginning to realize that safety and quality are

inseparable when it comes to the success of a project. Having COR certification, specifically, shows that a company is meeting, if not exceeding, legislated safety standards, such as those dealing with proper safety training and personal protective equipment usage. One builder in Saskatchewan told us they have noticed a marked difference in the work completed by their sub-contractors who had certified safety management systems and strong safety cultures in place. The quality of these projects actually went up, while error rates and deficiencies dropped. They believed that because these companies put a higher value on safety, they also paid more attention to the details of their work.

When hiring a professional builder, it is highly recommended that you ask them a number of questions to identify if they are a legitimate business and understand how much importance they place on safety practices. Some of the questions to ask, include:

- Do you have a business license to operate?
- Is your company registered with Workers' Compensation Board? Are they a member of the Better Business Bureau?
- Does your company have liability insurance?
- Is your company trained and qualified to perform the work?
- Does your company have a safety program? Are they COR® certified?
- Do you have a fall protection plan for workers?
- What do you do in case of emergencies?
- Do supervisors and workers receive safety training? Is supervision provided on site?
- How is the site secured after hours?

The right builder will be glad to answer these questions, and more. The most reliable ones will also be able to readily produce all of the supporting documentation to show you why they should be your first choice. Don't be afraid to protect your investment and save yourself the frustration of project delays and deficiencies caused by unsafe work. Safety management does translate into a high-quality product you can count on to be completed on time, on budget, with zero deficiencies, and zero injuries.



## Collin Pullar, President

Saskatchewan Construction Safety Association (SCSA)

*Collin Pullar is the President of the Saskatchewan Construction Safety Association – An industry-driven and funded association serving over 9,000 commercial, industrial, and residential construction member companies in Saskatchewan. Its mission is to provide high-quality safety training and advice to construction employers and employees that will lead to reduced human and financial losses associated with injuries.*