



SASWH History Timeline
2010-2025

**SASWH AGM
and Safety Expo**

15 **TIMELESS** Safety Tips

**Upcoming
Events**

CELEBRATING 15 YEARS OF SAFETY EXCELLENCE!



MISSION

TO GUIDE THE HEALTH-RELATED INDUSTRY IN THE ELIMINATION OF
WORKPLACE ILLNESS AND INJURY.

VISION

WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY:
A PRIORITY FOR ALL.



Saskatchewan
Association for
Safe Workplaces
in Health

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A *Legacy* of Success:

“On behalf of the Ministry of Health, I would like to congratulate SASWH on achieving 15 years of safety services within the province’s healthcare system.

Your ongoing commitment to safe and healthy workplaces has made a lasting impact across Saskatchewan. We commend your dedication, leadership, and collaboration in advancing a culture of safety and prevention. Your efforts promote safety, reduce errors, and inspire confidence.

You have ensured that patients receive care in a secure, respectful environment, while staff feel supported and protected in their work. This mutual respect and care are the foundation of better health outcomes, higher morale, and a stronger healthcare system.

Thank you for your continued contribution to the wellbeing of Saskatchewan’s healthcare sector.”

Tracey Smith, Deputy Minister of Health
Saskatchewan Ministry of Health

“Congratulations on 15 years of providing high quality safety programs and services to healthcare employers in Saskatchewan. We appreciate our partnership with you to advance a culture of safety and ensure the safety of our healthcare teams.”

Andrew Will, CEO
Saskatchewan Health Authority



Messages From Our Community

“On behalf of everyone at Mont St. Joseph Care Home, thank you to SASWH for your continued support and for providing us with the education needed to make healthcare safer. Your resources and guidance have made a meaningful impact on our team's ability to provide safe, high-quality care.

Congratulations—from our team to yours—on the great work you do to support healthcare workers across Saskatchewan.”

Becki

Mont St. Joseph Care Home

“We sincerely appreciate SASWH for your hard work and efforts over the past 15 years. Thank you for your many wonderful years of excellent safety service!”

Nancy

Caleb Village

“Congratulations on 15 years providing training and safety programs to healthcare employees! Thank you for all you have done for us at Eatonia Oasis Living. We appreciate you!”

Eatonia

Oasis Living

“THANK YOU, SASWH, FOR YOUR HELP PROMOTING AND SUPPORTING SAFETY IN HEALTHCARE. I APPRECIATE THE GUIDANCE AND GOOD COMMUNICATION.”

Susan

*Foam Lake
Jubilee Home*

CEO UPDATE

15 Years of Safety Excellence in Healthcare

By: Sandra Cripps, MHRM

SASWH Chief Executive Officer

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2025 flags a remarkable milestone for our organization: 15 years of unwavering commitment to healthcare workplace safety. This anniversary is more than a measure of time; it reflects the countless decisions, actions, and innovations that have shaped a safer environment for our patients, families, and team members.

Launching a new organization is like planting a seed: you nurture it, shield it from storms, and cheer for every new leaf. It brings to mind the many hands that tended SASWH before us, and I'm grateful for their care in helping this mission take root.

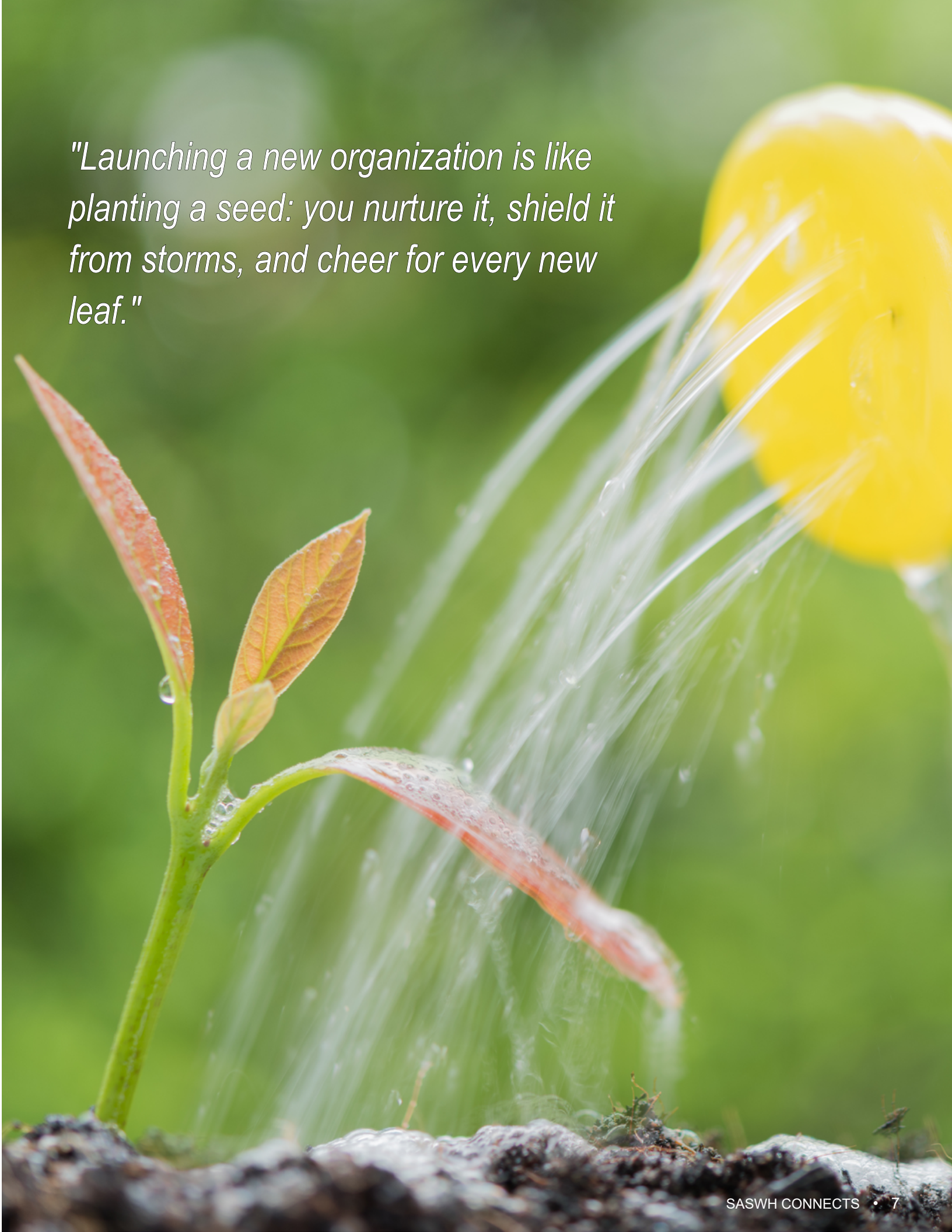
Over the past decade and a half, the association has transformed the way we think about safety through a stronger culture of transparency, the embrace of evidence-based practices, and continually challenging ourselves to exceed established standards. Most importantly, SASWH listened to its members and system partners, and used that feedback to develop and update programs and services that better respond to the needs of membership.

Our achievements in safety have not happened by chance - they are the result of the dedication of every individual across our organization. To SASWH staff I would like to say: whether you deliver safety education and training, provide program coordination or support operations, your contributions have made a meaningful difference! I am deeply grateful for our team's commitment, vigilance and resilience throughout the years.

As SASWH celebrates this milestone, we also reaffirm our responsibility to keep evolving. Healthcare continues to change rapidly, and safety must remain at the centre of everything we do. Together, SASWH and its membership will continue to invest in innovation, strengthen our practices, and lead with compassion and integrity.

Here's to 15 years of progress, and to a future where workplace safety continues to be a priority for all!

"Launching a new organization is like planting a seed: you nurture it, shield it from storms, and cheer for every new leaf."



SASWH HISTORY TIMELINE

2010 – 2012

In the Beginning

Healthcare leaders had a vision of establishing a not-for-profit organization purpose-built around workplace health and safety and injury prevention. They knew that the safety association's success would be driven through the collaboration of healthcare employers and healthcare union leaders. This required the nomination of a Board of Directors, development of bylaws, and hiring of a team that understood both safety and healthcare.



GETTING IT RIGHT FROM THE START

2010

The association was established in March 2010 representing G22 Safety Association members, which includes Saskatchewan health authorities, hospitals, EMS service providers, and care homes. A Board of Directors was elected consisting of both worker and employer representatives, and this group went on to build the organization's key values: health and safety, transparency, collaboration, commitment, innovation, respect, trust, and stewardship.

The newly developed bylaws and interim Executive Director both contributed to assist and guide informed decision-making. In this early stage, an environmental scan was also completed to identify best and promising practices in Occupational Health and Safety. Once these foundations were put in place, the association's first strategic plan was developed.

PROVINCIAL SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM DEVELOPED

2011

This was a year of organizational growth as the first CEO and other staffing roles were hired. Significant time investments were made to establish the visual identity of the organization, which included the introduction of the association's mission (***"To guide the health-related industry in the elimination of workplace illness and injury."***) and vision (***"Workplace health and safety: a priority for all."***).

Another major project was started: SASWH's collaboration with Saskatchewan healthcare organizations to develop a provincial Safety Management System (SMS). This framework set the stage for more accelerated work by SASWH to support its members in achieving safer workplaces.

TRANSITION IN STRUCTURE

2012

SASWH experienced some transitions in structure and operations, and was fortunate to have the support of Board members to guide it through the process. Meeting deliverables of the strategic plan remained top of mind throughout the year. The dedication and commitment of staff was evident, and workplace health and safety endured as the principal priority.

SASWH HISTORY TIMELINE

2013 – 2015

Gaining Momentum

Under new leadership, SASWH membership started to feel the full support of a dedicated safety association for healthcare. The organization honed its focus to building a competent safety team through enhanced recruitment and retention processes, and created greater awareness for who SASWH's membership included and what programs and services it could offer.



2013

NEW CEO, NEW DIRECTION, SAME GOALS

This year held some challenging yet exciting transitions for the organization. The association's current CEO was brought on board, and attention was focused on creating connections with G22 members and the provision of safety training, coaching, and consultation services. At this point in time, SASWH was providing training specific to healthcare, including TLR®, PART®, OHC Level 1 and 2, Safety for Supervisors, and Safety Management System education.

The association was also expanding its e-learning offerings, and prioritizing program evaluation for its licensed programs. The work completed in 2013 contributed to the reduction of premiums by \$0.09 (from \$2.13 to \$2.04). This was a savings to the system of \$1.77M.

2014

SAFETY COMPETENCY WITHIN G22

With new leadership in place and the previous year's accomplishments, SASWH was more dedicated than ever to increasing the delivery of services to allow members to reach a level of safety competency that would lead to a reduction in workplace injuries. This philosophy included greater emphasis by Safety Specialists on the importance of knowledge transfer of theory to practice, on-site follow-ups, and the observation of active improvements in workplace safety.

An additional reduction of premiums occurred, bringing the rate down to \$1.98 in 2014-2015 (system-wide savings of \$1.23M); the lowest it had been since the association was established. More important than the financial savings was the reduction in injuries, shorter duration of claims, and more workers going home safe at the end of their work day.

2015

STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS

The drive toward a culture of safety and zero workplace injuries remained a priority for 2015. There was an excellent update on the investigation of injuries to better identify the root cause, and this commitment from membership was a promising sign of a culture shift.

The implementation of the provincial SMS had been an ambitious undertaking for healthcare employers but was paying off, and will continue to do so in the future. This dedication from membership led to a premium reduction to \$1.75 – a ten-year low with an estimated cost savings of \$5M.

SASWH HISTORY TIMELINE

2016 – 2019

Strengthened System Partnerships

Forging strong and collaborative relationships with system partners increased SASWH's ability to maximize the speed and diversity of services delivered to membership. These relationships include other Saskatchewan safety associations as well as national partners who share a common mission to improve the culture of healthcare workplace safety within their respective jurisdictions.



LEADING THE WAY IN RESPIRATORY PROTECTION

2016

To ensure that healthcare could meet the challenges presented by infectious diseases, SASWH launched a province-wide Respiratory Protection Program. This was a proud achievement for the association and was built to align with Saskatchewan legislation and CSA Standards. The program included a train-the-tester approach that empowered members to take control of their own health and safety and set a new standard for preparedness against workplace hazards.

GROWING AWARENESS, PARTNERSHIPS, AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SAFETY

2017

2017 was a year of change for the healthcare system as the 12 Regional Health Authorities consolidated into the current Saskatchewan Health Authority. These changes presented opportunities for SASWH as it allowed the association to deepen partnerships and collaborate with other organizations to strengthen workplace violence prevention and increase training in PART® and TLR®.

UNIFIED FOCUS ON VIOLENCE PREVENTION

2018

With workplace violence on the rise, SASWH helped lead a united provincial response. A Violence Prevention Framework emerged through strong collaboration with system partners in Ontario, and support by G22 members in Saskatchewan. The [#IWILLREPORT](#) campaign inspired a culture of courage and accountability, marking a proud step toward safer workplaces for all. This awareness campaign also promoted the common goal of reducing incidents of violence in healthcare. The roll out, use, and value of this collective effort remains strong today.

INNOVATING EDUCATION FOR A CHANGING WORLD

2019

SASWH moved its training and education opportunities into the future by blending online learning with hands-on practice, which made safety education more accessible than ever before. The association began offering Mental Health First Aid in 2019 at a cost accessible to smaller healthcare employers, as well as creating a [rural and remote awareness video](#), which spotlighted SASWH's commitment to supporting every corner of the province.

SASWH HISTORY TIMELINE

2020 – 2021

COVID Years: The Association's Staff Stepped Up

While many industries slowed during the earliest months of the pandemic, healthcare was an exception to this rule and instead faced multiple years of increased demand for service along with heightened health and safety protocols. As the industry's safety association, SASWH faced similar pressures to increase services and explore different delivery modalities.



2020 RISING TO THE MOMENT WITH EMS PARTNERS AND COVID RESPONSE

SASWH's partnership with Saskatchewan's EMS sector reached new heights with the creation of the TLR® EMS program and the locally-designed EMS lift sheet. This innovative technology is still in use today! However, the association did not make it far into the year before the world was disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. During this time, SASWH pivoted and invested wherever it was necessary to allow the association to deliver unwavering support: online education, contingency training, strengthened respiratory fit testing, infection prevention and control (IPAC) guidance, outbreak support, and more.

In 2020 alone, more than 4,900 hours were solely dedicated to fit testing, and over 5,000 workers were fit tested. In addition to SASWH's eight fit testers on staff, the association helped build capacity by getting 107 members up to tester status. It was a defining year that highlighted the resilience of G22 membership and the heart of the organization.

With that being said, SASWH could not have achieved this work alone: the association received an overwhelming response to its call for the use of quantitative fit testing equipment. Thank you to the following organizations for your tremendous support to the province's healthcare sector:

SaskPower • Regina Police Service • Labour Relations and Workplace Safety • University of Regina • Saskatchewan Polytechnic • Cameco Corporation - Cigar Lake Operation • Orano Canada-McClean Lake Operation • Yara Belle Plaine Inc. • Safety Association of Saskatchewan Manufacturers

2021 LEADING WITH PEOPLE, PROCESS, AND PURPOSE

As pandemic challenges continued, SASWH remained a steady partner in prioritizing the well-being of its membership by ensuring their continuous access to essential safety programs and IPAC guidance. One of the major projects rolling over from the previous year was the association's commitment to personal care home, group home, and other residential care home operators in Saskatchewan.

With backing from the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Social Services, SASWH was able to support home operators in their adherence to the public health order respecting COVID-19. This included IPAC practices, access to a secure supply chain for personal protective equipment, contingency planning for the safe care of residents during outbreaks, isolation protocols, and overall exposure control planning.

SASWH HISTORY TIMELINE

2022 – 2025

Current and Future State

After the pressure of the pandemic eased, SASWH's team was able to dedicate more time to the enhanced review and tailoring of safety training and education to better meet the demands of its membership. The association's willingness to adapt while maintaining the integrity of its programs and services is one of its greatest strengths, and allows SASWH to remain a reliable resource in reducing and preventing serious injuries and violence in healthcare.



2022

REALIGNING FOR STABILITY AND SERVICE

As the pressure of the pandemic eased, SASWH was able to take time to streamline internal processes, thereby reducing staff travel demands and making time for important program evaluations. Safety Specialists remained dedicated to the uninterrupted delivery of all required programs and services, such as respiratory fit testing, IPAC, safety education and training, and safety consultation services.

2023

REFOCUSING ON IMPACT AND MEMBER NEEDS

SASWH refined its performance indicators to ensure energy and resources aligned with member needs. With the addition of new team members, the association was able to expand its capacity to serve, support, and engage with its membership throughout Saskatchewan more deeply than ever.

2024

MODERNIZING AGREEMENTS & INNOVATING IN SAFE PATIENT HANDLING

SASWH revitalized its license agreements for greater clarity and increased opportunity for collaboration. 2024 also saw the beginning of a transformative redesign of the PART® Program®. Partnerships with WCB and researchers from the University of Moncton supported the exploration of innovative technology, such as the VENDLET Patient Turning System, and the benefits this technology could bring to Canada were presented to membership at the association's annual general meeting.

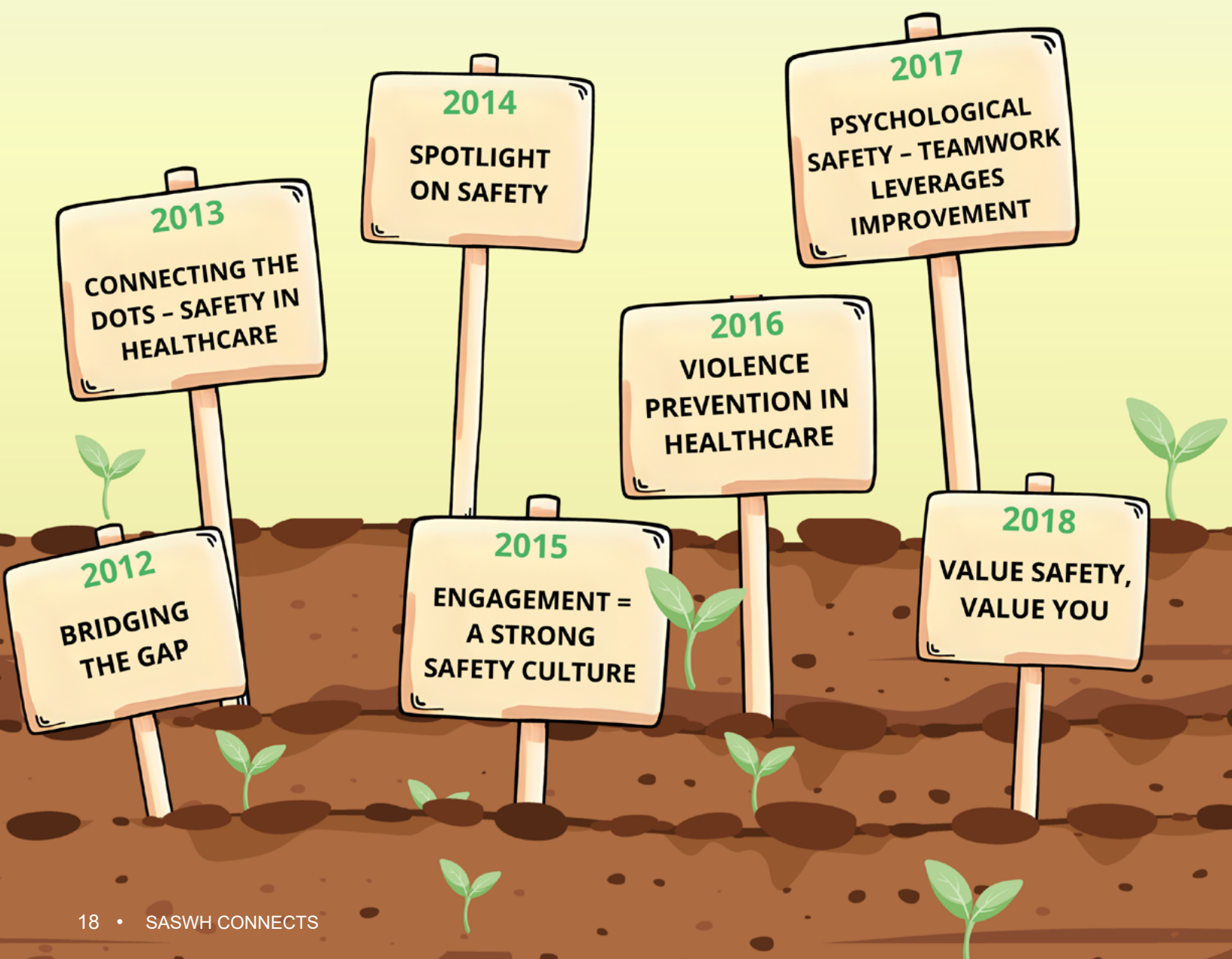
2025

BUILDING A STRONGER FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE

2025 saw the finalization of the redesigned PART® Program®, a refresh of internal policies and procedures to better support the association's growing team, and a thoughtful review of provincial regulations. Each effort reflects SASWH's commitment to a safer tomorrow for G22 membership through the promotion of learning, leadership, and a culture of safety.

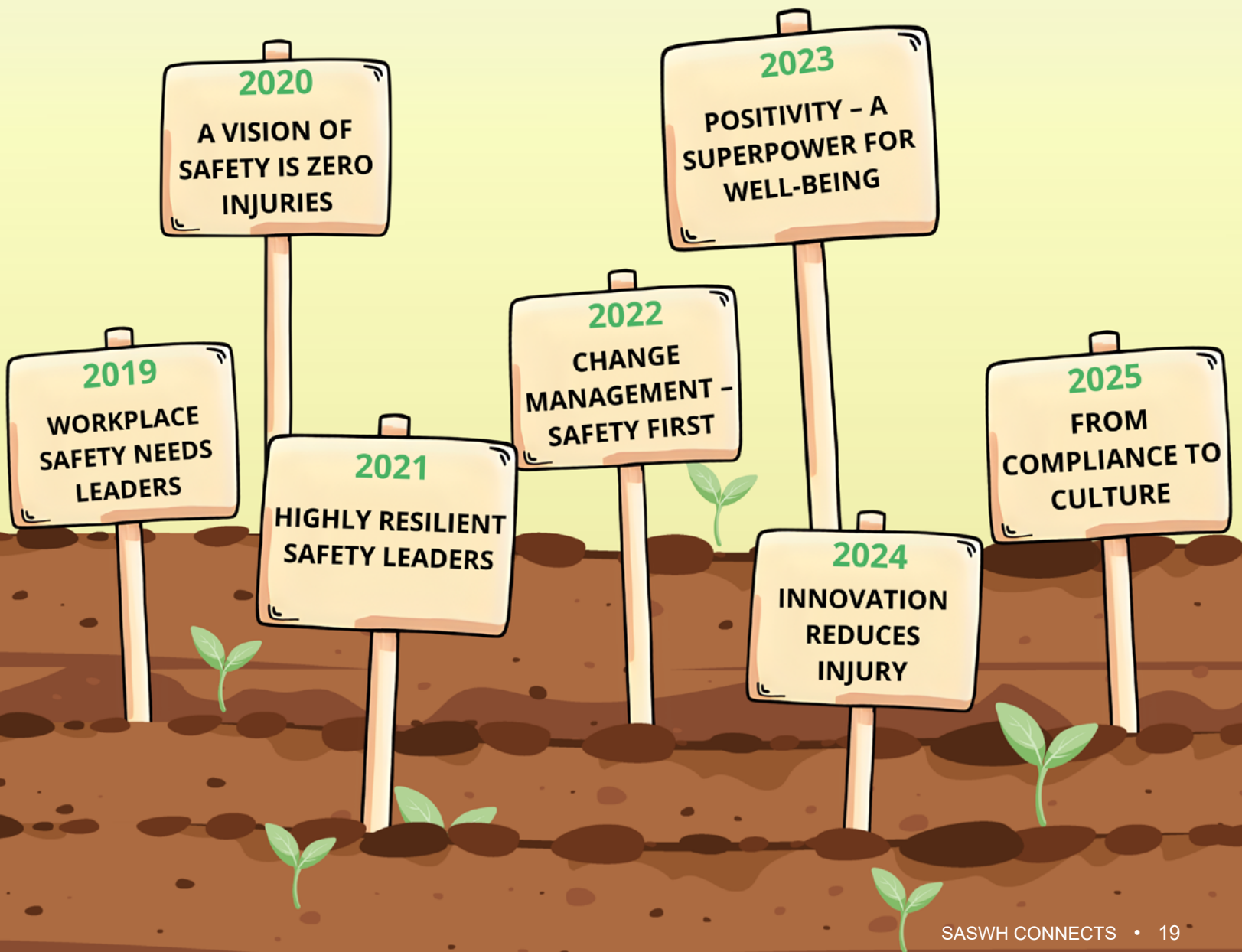


Sowing Seeds of Knowledge...





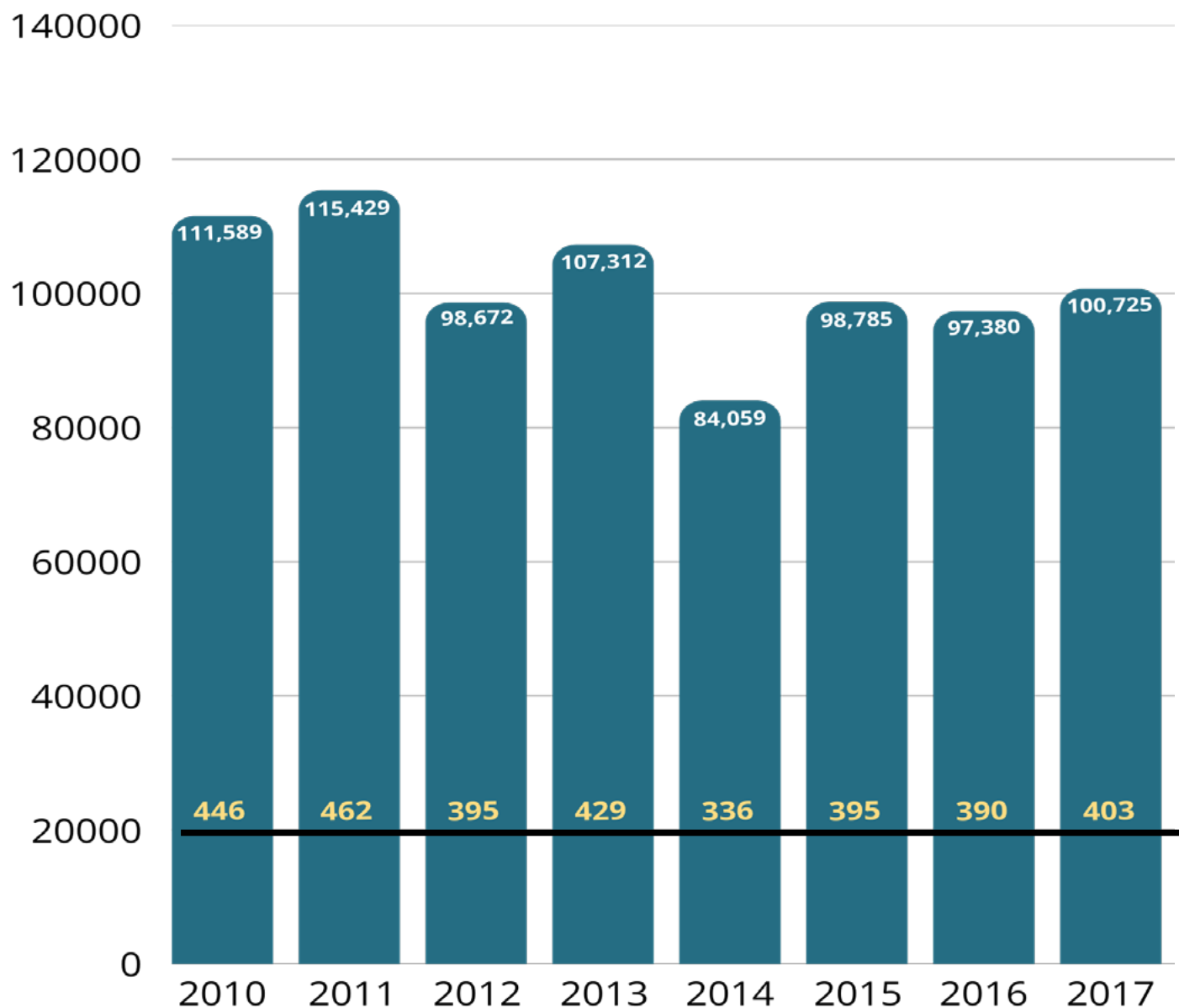
At Our Annual General Meetings!



G22 Compensation Days for Time Loss

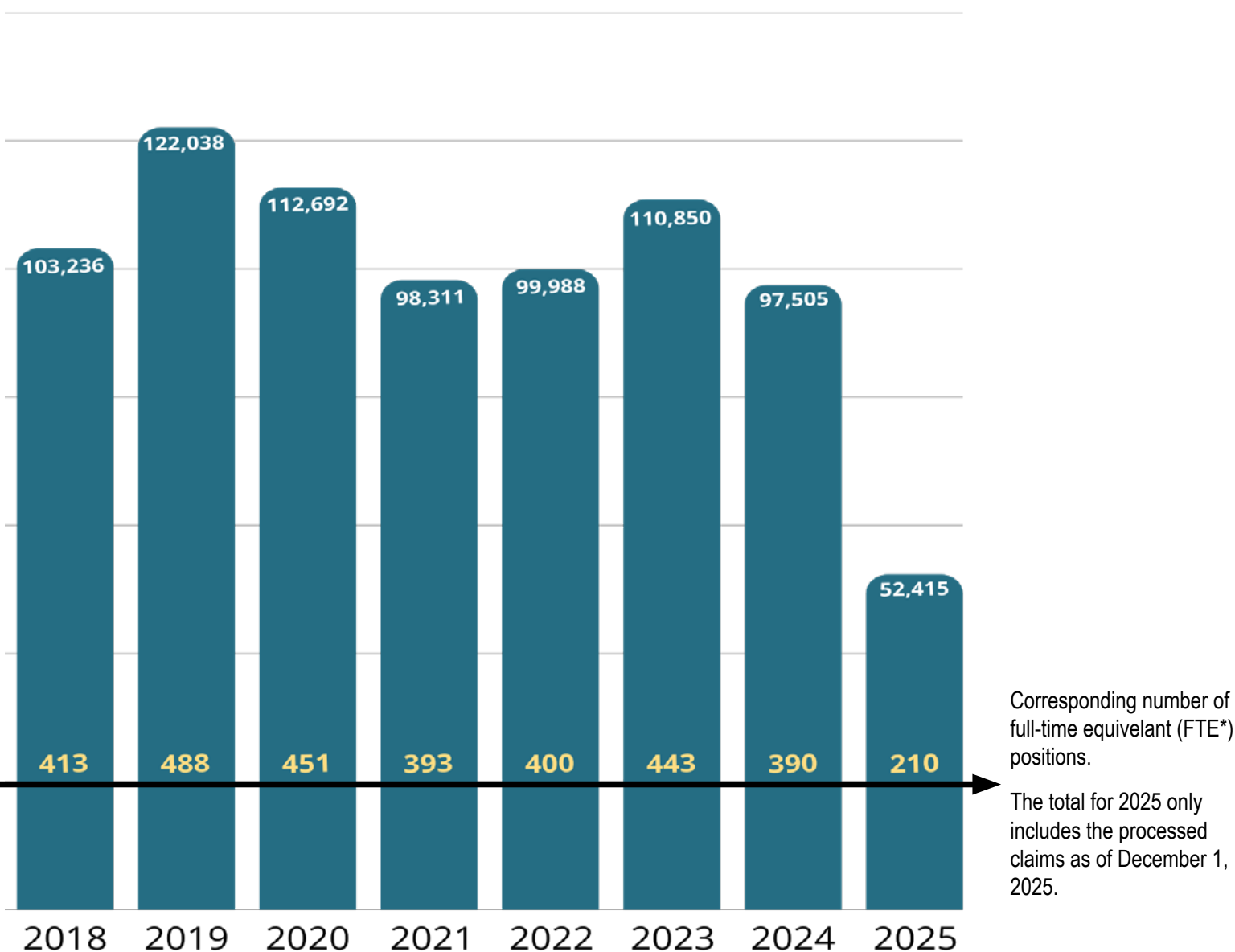
Due to Injury

2010 - 2025



*FTE - assuming 250 working days in a year

The number of days lost due to a workplace injury has a direct correlation to the number of full-time equivalent positions (estimated with the assumption that there are 250 working days in a year).





Timeless **Safety Tips**

ONE

Promote Workplace Violence Prevention

Workers should read and understand their organization's violence prevention plan and policy, and must immediately report violent or threatening behaviours to their supervisor.

TWO

Wear Appropriate PPE

Personal protective equipment must be readily available and must be fitted and comfortable for workers.

THREE

Prevent Needlesticks and Sharps Injuries

To avoid a needle stick injury, use safe practices and appropriate PPE when administering needles and properly dispose used needles in engineered safety sharps devices.

FOUR

Maintain Proper Ergonomics

Ensure proper body mechanics are utilized when engaging in a moving task such as a transfer lift or when repositioning clients/patients/residents.

FIVE

Practice Proper Hand Hygiene

Thorough handwashing procedures must be practiced after every client/patient/resident interaction to reduce the spread of infectious materials.

SIX

Handle Hazardous Chemicals/Materials Safely

Workers handling and using hazardous chemicals and materials must be trained on their safe use and disposal as well as the emergency measures of the products they may interact with.

SEVEN

Manage Stress and Fatigue

Be sure to take breaks throughout the workday to limit the potential of burnout that may impact physical or mental well-being.

EIGHT

Stay Current on Safety Training and Best Practices

Attending training sessions regularly and staying abreast of best practices can mitigate the risk to workers performing a task incorrectly that may cause injury to themselves or others.

NINE

Follow Safe Work Practices and Procedures

Safe work practices and procedures have been developed by the employer to mitigate risk of injury.

TEN

Implement and Follow IPAC Practices

Infection prevention and control (IPAC) practices developed by an organization provide guidance on prevention, preparedness, and planning regarding infection control.

ELEVEN

Report Hazards and Unsafe Conditions

When all workers are proactive in reporting hazards and unsafe working conditions to their supervisor immediately, they can help mitigate the risk of injury to themselves or others.

TWELVE

Stay Hydrated and Take Breaks

Hydrating through the day and taking breaks are essential for physical and mental well-being.

THIRTEEN

Stay Focused on the Job at Hand

Avoid horseplay or unsafe behaviours in the workplace.

FOURTEEN

Maintain Safe Work Areas

Keeping work areas clean and organized can help prevent slips, trips and falls.

FIFTEEN

Promote Emergency Preparedness Practices

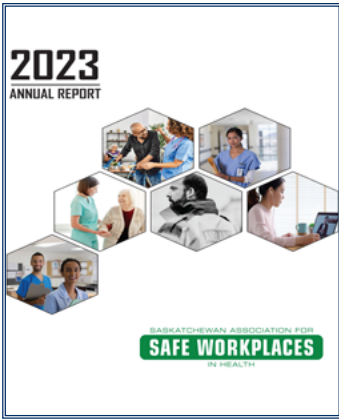
An organization where employers and workers are aware of their surroundings and understand their responsibilities in the event of an emergency will fare better if an emergency were to occur.

Annual Report

Covers

Through the Years 2013 to 2024

Every year, SASWH publishes an annual report for its members. This document includes a snapshot of the association's financial position at the end of the year, program and service updates, and industry statistics – just to name a few typical highlights! Just like the organization, the design and content of SASWH's annual report continues to adapt and grow.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & Safety Expo

From Compliance to Culture: Leadership and Workplace Safety in Saskatchewan

Our expert-led sessions will provide hands-on learning, practical insights, and valuable networking opportunities to help healthcare professionals excel in their field.



April 15, 2026



Regina, SK



**Free for members
of SASWH**



Keynote Speakers:
Morning – Drew Dudley
Afternoon – Rocky Ozaki



Email Us
communications@saswh.ca

Our Website
www.saswh.ca



**Space is limited,
so be sure to register today!**



UPCOMING EVENTS!

National Therapeutic Recreation Month

February

SSC Saskatchewan Safety Seminar

February 3-5, 2026

Saskatoon, SK

International Mental Health Nurses Day

February 21, 2026

CPHA Public Health 2026 Conference

March 11-13, 2026

Montreal, Quebec

REMINDER



**eCampus will be down for annual maintenance
December 26, 2025 – January 3, 2026**

2026 Training Sessions Now Available!



QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?
WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!!





Saskatchewan
Association for
Safe Workplaces
in Health