



Good morning everyone.

It is a privilege for me to be here at this 27th COPOLCO Workshop.

CSA – the Canadian Standards Association, operates within Canada's national standards system as an SDO accredited by the Standards Council of Canada, and we have long been a strong supporter of COPOLCO.

Our participation in COPOLCO goes back many years. We were actively involved in the Workshop on Fire Safety held in Toronto back in 1987 and today, we're pleased to be the Platinum Sponsor at this year's COPOLCO Plenary meeting and Workshop.

Over the years, the COPOLCO Workshops have provided a unique opportunity to address a subject of particular concern to consumers and to identify where further standards work is needed at the international level.

In 1979, the topic of the 1st COPOLCO Workshop was Product Safety...and while this remains a very important part of our standards work – evolving consumer concerns have certainly influenced the development of standards to address other broader & emerging societal issues.

There is no doubt in my mind that increasingly, standards are everywhere in our lives & consumers have made a significant contribution to not only the development of standards but also their implementation...to make a safer world.



A modern and safe world is built on standards that must evolve with these societal concerns.

Many standards protect people from injury and death. For example, fewer children today suffer from poisonings as a result of child-resistant packaging for medication.

Some standards enhance our quality of life. People with disabilities can freely enter a wide variety of places today because of standards for barrier-free access.

Other standards help preserve the environment. Today Canada has more certified forests than any other country in the world due in part to CSA's landmark standard for sustainable forest management and to the ISO 14000 series of environmental standards – a committee which CSA administers.

And finally, many standards are used to facilitate trade. Today, companies can do business around the world more easily – thanks to the increasing harmonization of international standards.

Standards clearly underpin the diverse products, services, and places that you & I encounter every day. But in changing times with changing needs, it is important for us all to be agile & flexible so that we can anticipate & respond to the concerns of people.



We applaud the efforts of COPOLCO for capturing these key consumer & public interest issues and, successfully bringing them forward to ISO for action. CSA certainly values are very committed to consumers' participation in our standards development work at all levels.

Our portfolio of standards in Canada has and will continue to expand to meet the changing needs of society. We are currently working at the national, regional and international levels to provide standards solutions to issues such as Social Responsibility, Public Health & Safety, and Climate Change.

Social Responsibility is one of the newest areas requiring consensus and collaboration amongst stakeholders and CSA has not only published guidance in this area but, also participates as an expert member of the Canadian delegation to the ISO/TMB WG on Social Responsibility.

Emergency Management is another key concern to people and businesses and CSA currently participates in the ISO Advisory Group on Security, and ANSI's Homeland Security Standards Panel. You will hear more this morning from Dr. James Young about Canadian developments in this field of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness.

To help address the growing Climate Change concerns around the world, we currently administer an international working group (ISO Working Group 5) with the goal to provide a set of new standards for ghg emission reductions.

These are but a few highlights of what we are embarking on to provide standards solutions for today's world challenges.



Consumers around the globe are increasingly being impacted by the same wide range of personal, as well as collective safety and security issues.

Catastrophic events such as the Asian Tsunami, environmental emergencies, terrorism attack or threats of terrorism have certainly brought safety and security to the forefront of the public agenda. It has also brought the world together.

This week, COPOLCO has gathered experts from around the world to discuss these very significant and far-reaching societal issues.

I am both excited and confident that today's workshop will stimulate invaluable discussions on how standardization can positively influence « safety and security in our world » from the perspective of the consumers.



I thank you for your attention and trust that you will enjoy today's workshop...

« A Safer World for Consumers – How can Standards help? »