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## Message from President

***Spencer Buckland MLT, MALT, QM/OE, CRSP***

ERAC's vision is to be the highest quality emergency preparedness and response assistance organization in Canada. In order to recognize the efforts of outstanding individuals and teams, ERAC is pleased to announce that it has created four awards in the areas of: (1) Leadership, (2) Safety, (3) Collaboration and Teamwork and (4) Training and Learning. These awards will be distributed every two years at the National Training Forum.

Should you feel that an individual or team should be nominated for an award, please read over the information and criteria found on our web page, by clicking [here](#), for the applicable award and complete the related nomination form (excluding the Training and Learning award, which will be selected by the Selection Committee).

For 2017, we will be accepting nominations for the awards until April 14, 2017. A decision on the recipients will be made in April 2017, with the award to be distributed during our National Training Forum, May 15-17, 2017.

It's hard to believe spring 2017 is already here and our regional training and assessment exercises are ramping up again. On March 23, ERAC held a full-scale rail emergency exercise, in conjunction with Canadian Pacific Railway (CP), at the Port Coquitlam rail yard. We assessed four response teams simultaneously transferring LPGs and flammable liquids.

These hands-on training and assessment exercises are the foundation of our organization, ensuring our ERAC responders are confident and safe when responding to a plan activation. Such events, along with Regional training scheduled throughout the year, support our continuous commitment to our valued Plan Participant members and ERAC responders.

In addition, ERAC's National Training forum will take place May 15-17, 2017 in Calgary, AB. I'm looking forward to seeing ERAC Response Team Leaders, Remedial Measures Advisors, Technical Advisors and a number of other invited guests. This is ERAC's premier event that only happens every two years. We have a great lineup of informative and engaging speakers, along with well-deserved rewards and recognition for those responders committed to meeting ERAC training and assessment requirements. We are so proud to have so many ERAC contractors, industry responders, and partners come together with ERAC staff and board members.

Until then, please work safe and play safe.

