



## Message from the President

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

It's hard to believe 2017 is almost at an end – and what a year it's been. Emergency Response Assistance Canada (ERAC) successfully held 26 regional training events, ensuring our valued response teams are trained, assessed and approved on behalf of our Plan Participants. We also held two full-scale rail emergency exercises and four firefighting training events. On top of that, our response teams have attended 27 incidents across the country. And all while maintaining a zero-injury status during our more than 30 years of operations.

In November, we held our first ERAC Update webinars for our responders and Plan Participants in almost a year. Thank you to everyone who was able to attend – your questions and feedback were valuable and appreciated. We're looking forward to holding more of these webinars in 2018 to keep our partners and members up-to-date on ERAC.

The coming year brings new opportunities and challenges for ERAC. We continue to work closely with government departments, including Transport Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada and the B.C. Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy, to ensure that our Plan Participants' Emergency Response Assistance Plans (ERAPs) are meeting or exceeding all regulations. We're also pleased with the uptake on Environmental Emergency (E2) plans and the Plan Participant Readiness and Review Program – these newer services bring more benefits to our Plan Participants, in more ways than one.

Finally, we're excited to introduce our first Dangerous Goods Emergency Management Conference in Calgary in Fall 2018. Topics will include emergency management, emergency response, ERAPs and E2 plans – more details and registration information to come soon.

I'd like to wish everyone safe and happy holidays. We look forward to what 2018 will bring.

