



**YUKON WORKERS' COMPENSATION
HEALTH AND SAFETY BOARD** **COMMISSION DE LA
SANTÉ ET DE LA SÉCURITÉ
AU TRAVAIL
DU YUKON**

NEWS RELEASE

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YOUNG YUKONERS WIN IN POPULAR "THE BOOT IS BACK" CONTEST

Three young Yukoners have won great prizes in the Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board's popular Young Worker Safety Contest, which was run this summer throughout the Yukon.

There were about 4,000 entries this year – up by about 1,000 from last year. Using the theme "The Boot is Back" (building on last year's "Give Workplace Injuries the Boot!"), the aim of the contest is to raise awareness among youth of workplace safety.

"Our young people are keen and eager participants in the workforce," said Sue Edelman, Minister Responsible for the Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board. "They are also the most vulnerable to workplace injury. It's very important to let them know what the risks are, and what they can do to minimize those risks."

"Awareness is an important first step towards developing an attitude of safety," said Arthur Mitchell, Alternate Chair of the YWCHSB's Board of Directors. "We know from the popularity of the "Boot" contest that we have the attention of young Yukoners."

The YWCHSB introduced the Young Workers Safety Contest last summer to draw attention to the fact that young workers under 25 -- particularly males -- are at higher risk of workplace injury than other workers. In 2001, 226 young workers were injured in the Yukon.

In this second year of the contest, the distinctive bright yellow work boot displays were placed throughout the Yukon. Participating youth had to fill out ballots that informed them about the increased risk they face of being injured on the job. The ballots also advised youth to ask their employers how to do new tasks safely.

The winners of the contest were announced today at a draw at Work World, which supplied the steel-toed, CSA-approved work boots for the campaign.

The first prize, a Sony mini hi fi system, was won by Byron Klippert of Mayo. Second prize, a Panasonic portable CD player, went to Rachel Clarke of Whitehorse, and third prize, a Game Boy Advance game system, goes to Chelsea Hamilton of Whitehorse.

The YWCHSB is donating the several pairs of work boots from the contest to Skills Canada, so that the boots end up on the feet of young workers, helping to keep them safe.

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