



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

News Release

For Immediate Release
April 24, 2002

Investigation of Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board commences

The Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board (YWCHSB) has received notice from the Minister Responsible for the Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board Sue Edelman to launch an investigation pursuant to sections 99(1) of the Workers' Compensation Act. The investigation is to be conducted by the president as outlined in section 100 (2) of the Workers' Compensation Act.

The minister has required the president to investigate and report on the following:

- If confidential information from the board has been provided to the Member for Whitehorse Centre.
- If there has been a contravention of policy BD-05 "Rules Governing Conflict of Interest for Board Members" with respect to provision of information to the Member for Whitehorse Centre. And if so, what steps have been taken by the board as a result.
- If the board or any board member has been providing the Member for Whitehorse Centre with briefings on the maximum wage rate negotiations. And if so, which member or members.

The investigation is to cover the period of time Edelman has been minister—from January 14, 2002 to present. The investigation report must be submitted to the minister by May 23, 2002. The minister has committed to tabling the report in the legislature.



YUKON WORKERS' COMPENSATION HEALTH AND SAFETY BOARD

"The Yukon Workers Compensation Health and Safety Board will be complying with the minister's request for a thorough investigation, and we will be seeking the services of an investigator who can provide impartial and independent results," said Tony Armstrong, president of the YWCHSB. "With that end in sight, I will be in contact with Mr. Justice Ted Hughes to see if he is available to conduct the investigation ordered by the minister."

The YWCHSB will announce the final appointment of the investigator, once an agreement has been negotiated.

For Broadcast Use:

The Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board has received notice from its minister, Sue Edelman, to launch an investigation. The investigation will look at the period of time that Edelman has been minister of the Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board and will inquire whether confidential information was released to the Member from Whitehorse Centre Mike McLarnon; whether there was a contravention of the board's policy governing conflict of interest for board members; and if the board or any board member has been providing McLarnon with briefings on the maximum wage rate negotiations.

Tony Armstrong, the president of the Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board, is complying with the minister's request for a thorough investigation, and is seeking the services of an investigator who can provide impartial and independent results. Armstrong will be in contact with Mr. Justice Ted Hughes to see if Hughes is available to lead the investigation. The appointment of the investigator will be announced once an agreement has been negotiated. The investigation must be completed by May 23 of this year.

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For more information please contact:
Tina Sebert
Public Relations Liaison
Yukon Workers' Compensation Health & Safety Board
Tel: 867.667.8695
Email: Tina.Sebert@gov.yk.ca

Background Information

Relevant section of the Workers' Compensation Act:

Section 99(1):

The Minister may, by written order, require the board to investigate any matter under its jurisdiction in the manner requested by the Minister.

Section 100 (2):

By order of the board, the president shall conduct an investigation into any matter in connection with the administration of the Act and shall have in connection with the investigation the same powers as the Supreme Court of the Yukon Territory for compelling the attendance of witnesses, examining witnesses under oath and compelling the production and inspection of books, papers, documents and objects relevant to the investigation, and causing depositions to be taken.

Note: The complete Workers' Compensation Act and Board Policy BD-04 can be found on the YWCHSB website at www.wcb.yk.ca