



Media Release
WCB Lays Charges under the NWT Safety Act

Yellowknife, NT (March 10, 2006) The Workers' Compensation Board of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut (WCB) has laid charges under the NWT *Safety Act* in connection with a fire on March 17, 2005, that caused the deaths of Yellowknife Fire Fighters Lieutenant Cyril Fyfe and Fire Fighter Kevin Olson.

There have been two charges laid against the City of Yellowknife, two charges laid against Yellowknife Fire Chief, Michael Beauchamp, and two charges laid against Deputy Fire Chief, Darcy Hernblad. The charges are as follows:

With respect to the City of Yellowknife:

That the Municipal Corporation of the City of Yellowknife did, on March 17, 2005, in the City of Yellowknife, in the Northwest Territories, fail to take all reasonable precautions and adopt and carry out all reasonable techniques and procedures to ensure the health and safety of every person in its establishment, *to wit* the Yellowknife Fire Department, as required by s. 4(1)(b) of the *Safety Act*, contrary to s. 22(2) of the *Safety Act*;

That the Municipal Corporation of the City of Yellowknife did, on March 17, 2005, in the City of Yellowknife, in the Northwest Territories fail to ensure the adequate instruction of each worker in the safe performance of his or her duties, as required by s. 9 of the *General Safety Regulations*, contrary to s.22(2) of the *Safety Act*;

With respect to Fire Chief, Michael Beauchamp:

That Michael Beauchamp did, on March 17, 2005, in the City of Yellowknife, in the Northwest Territories, fail to take all reasonable precautions and adopt and carry out all reasonable techniques and procedures to ensure the health and safety of every person in his establishment, *to wit* the Yellowknife Fire Department, as required by s. 4(1)(b) of the *Safety Act*, contrary to s. 22(2) of the *Safety Act*;

That Michael Beauchamp did, on March 17, 2005, in the City of Yellowknife, in the Northwest Territories, fail to ensure the adequate instruction of each worker in the safe performance of his or her duties, as required by s. 9 of the *General Safety Regulations*, contrary to s.22 (2) of the *Safety Act*;

With respect to Deputy Fire Chief, Darcy Hernblad:

That Darcy Hernblad did, on March 17, 2005, in the City of Yellowknife, in the Northwest Territories, fail to take all reasonable precautions and adopt and carry out all reasonable techniques and procedures to ensure the health and safety of every person in his establishment, *to wit* the Yellowknife Fire Department, as required by s. 4(1)(b) of the *Safety Act*, contrary to s. 22(2) of the *Safety Act*;

That Darcy Hernblad did, on March 17, 2005, in the City of Yellowknife, in the Northwest Territories, fail to ensure the adequate instruction of each worker in the safe performance of his or her duties, as required by s. 9 of the *General Safety Regulations*, contrary to s.22 (2) of the *Safety Act*;

The NWT *Safety Act* ensures that safety regulations are met and assures proper safety guidelines and practices are followed for both employers and workers to maintain safe work environments.

“The WCB is committed to conducting thorough investigations. These charges are a result of a thorough investigation and independent legal review” says President and CEO David Clark.

The WCB will release its investigation report to the City of Yellowknife and to the individuals charged as part of its ongoing disclosure obligations. The investigation report remains confidential and not for public release. It is WCB policy not to release any investigation report; however, the report may be subject to the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* after legal proceedings are complete.

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