



**YUKON WORKERS'
COMPENSATION
HEALTH AND
SAFETY BOARD**

News Release

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Board Will Bring in Incentive Program and Adjust Rates to Address Claims Costs

The Chair of the Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board is urging workers and employers to work together to prevent workplace injuries and illnesses. At the Board's annual information meeting today, Craig Tuton also said the YWCSHB will introduce an incentive program for employers for 2007.

"Workplace injuries are costing all of us too much – in both human and financial terms," said Tuton. "This makes it all the more important for us to work together on prevention and create the safest, healthiest workplaces possible."

Claims costs increased from \$15.7 million in 2003 to \$19.5 million in 2004. The YWCHSB has been focusing on prevention and earlier created a \$5 million Prevention Fund from its reserves. It is developing guidelines for employers, labour groups and others to access the fund. It expects to implement the program in early 2006.

As well, the YWCHSB is reducing subsidies and adjusting assessment premium rates charged to employers for 2006. The changes mean the average assessment rate will be \$2.16 per \$100 of payroll in 2006, compared to \$1.74 in 2005. Employers with the highest claims costs will face the highest increases while those with low claims costs will see decreases.

The YWCHSB will also bring in an incentive program for employers in 2007. "We feel it's important to reward excellence in safety and prevention," said Tuton.

Contact:
Becky Striegler, Public Relations Liaison
867.667.8695
becky.striegler@gov.yk.ca