



**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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Board Adopts Policies to Provide Clarity and Consistency on Claims Decision-Making and Access to Information

The Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board has adopted three policies to provide clarity, consistency and fairness in claims decision-making, access to information, and procedures for making lump sum payments to workers injured before 1993.

"These policies provide guidance and clarity in important areas," said Craig Tuton, Chair of the Board of Directors. "We have consulted with representatives of workers and employers – through our stakeholder advisory committees – and we thank them for their valuable input."

The three policies are Access to Information, Merits and Justice of the Case, and Lump Sum Payments and Advances.

The policy on lump sum payments applies to workers injured before 1993, who are covered by earlier versions of workers' compensation legislation. Basically, this policy says an injured worker can obtain a lump sum payment if she or he:

- already has a stable, independent source of income, separate from YWCHSB benefits
- is applying the lump sum to a specific purpose that will enhance his or her financial position
- can provide medical documentation that he or she is in reasonable health
- obtains independent legal and financial advice

"This policy reflects our best efforts to balance the needs and interests of injured workers with the Board's fiduciary responsibility to the Compensation Fund." said Tuton. "We want to ensure the greatest possibility of success."

The merits and justice of the case policy guides those who make decisions on compensation claims. It applies to YWCHSB adjudicators and hearing officers as well as to the Workers' Compensation Appeal Tribunal.

The access to information policy closely mirrors the Yukon's Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act. The policy was necessary after the Information and Privacy Commissioner ruled in late 2002 that the YWCHSB is not a public body and therefore not covered by the territorial legislation.

All three policies are available on the YWCHSB Web site at *www.wcb.yk.ca*.

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