



FOR RELEASE

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YWCHSB Responds to Comments in Media Regarding Charges in Pagé Fatality

WHITEHORSE – The Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board is not free to comment on the specifics of the case while it is before the courts, except to say that the charges stem from a detailed investigation.

The Board has been advised not to release the investigative report until it can be presented in Court, to ensure a fair trial. Only when the matter is concluded can all know what did occur. Out of respect for due process, we all should wait until the company has had the opportunity to review the evidence, and also wait until the evidence has been presented in court.

In response to the statement by the President of the Yukon Chamber of Mines, John Witham, “you cannot regulate the behaviour of wild animals,” it is worth noting that none of the charges are related to the bear’s behaviour.

In response to the statement by the President of the Yukon Chamber of Mines, John Witham, that “the YWCHSB has contributed nothing whatsoever” to the Exploration Training Program, in fact this program was developed in partnership between the Yukon Chamber of Mines and the Yukon Construction Safety Association, which is funded by the YWCHSB.

Further, the Yukon Mine Training Association is currently benefiting from \$800,000 in funding from the YWCHSB Prevention Fund to improve safety in mining and exploration.

The Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board encourages the media and public to accept that the courts alone are able to determine if the charges are warranted, and what the final outcome will be.

While the process continues, we encourage all employers, supervisors and workers to continue to focus on workplace safety. If there are any specific questions about workplace safety in any business or industry, questions may be directed to Occupational Health and Safety consultants at 667-5450.

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