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Minister Consults with Stakeholders on the Special Examination of the Compensation System

WHITEHORSE — Don Roberts, Minister responsible for the Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board, wants to hear what Yukoners think of the workers' compensation system in the territory. He will be meeting with stakeholders this week.

The Office of the Auditor General of Canada has been asked to conduct a special examination of the efficiency, effectiveness and economics of the workers' compensation system in the Yukon. This meeting between the Minister and stakeholders will provide the Auditor General with some suggestions on what parts of the system need to be more closely examined.

"The Office of the Auditor General will be conducting the special examination completely independently," Roberts said. "It will ultimately determine the scope of the special examination, but the Office of the Auditor General has indicated it would welcome suggestions from stakeholders," added Roberts.

"The Office of the Auditor General is Canada's foremost authority in conducting value for money audits," added Roberts. "That is why it was chosen to conduct the special examination."

The cost of the special examination is estimated to be around \$600,000 and will be paid by the Office of the Auditor General. "This will save the compensation fund a significant amount of money," Roberts noted.

This financial arrangement is another aspect of the independence of the Office of the Auditor General; the Auditor General cannot be seen to be compromising its impartiality by accepting payment for performing an audit.

The requirements for a special examination of the workers' compensation system are outlined in Section 104 of the *Workers' Compensation Act*. This section was added in November 1999 as part of the Bill 83 amendments to the *Act*.

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