

Introduction

This stakeholder strategy provides support to the Board of Directors' commitment to interface with stakeholders outlined in the 2006 Governance Guide.

To be effective in delivering its mandate, the YWCHSB must be closely attuned to the diverse interests of the stakeholders. One of the challenging responsibilities facing the Board is to seek, organize, weigh and evaluate stakeholder input. The relationship between members of the Board and stakeholders should promote:

- Awareness of occupational health and safety, prevention, Return-To-Work and compensation, within and among stakeholders groups and governments;
- Accessibility of the Board to stakeholders;
- Communication of the “facts” with respect to issues and situations, prior to motions and votes;
- Sound consultative processes; and
- When decisions are made at the Board table, the Board and each of its members must be prepared to go to stakeholders to explain what decisions were made and upon what criteria the Board made such decisions.

How individual Board members interact with stakeholders is detailed in the attached document “Guidelines to Stakeholder Relationships”. This document focuses on the strategies of the Board of Directors (either directly or through the President/CEO) to meet their commitment to interface with external stakeholders.

External Stakeholders

The Board has identified its key stakeholders as follows:

- **Legislators.** Legislators are essential players in the YWCHSB Strategic Plan. The Board's intent is to maintain communications with legislators to develop mutual trust to a point where legislators become advocates for the YWCHSB Strategic Plan.
- **Employers.** As one of the fundamental stakeholder groups in the YWCHSB mandate, the Board intends to develop a solid working relationship with employers and all levels of government (municipalities, Yukon Government and First Nation Governments) by maintaining open lines of communication, and by keeping employers informed so that employers can implement the vision of the YWCHSB in their work places. The Board also intends to strengthen the relationship between employers and workers with a focus on workplace wellness.
- **Workers and Youth.** As one of the fundamental stakeholders in the YWCHSB mandate, the Board intends to keep workers (union and non-union, public and private, First Nation, as well as employers who are also workers), injured workers and youth well informed with respect to their rights and well-being, and motivate a belief in self-empowerment and shared responsibility for workplace wellness.
- **Health Care Community.** To demonstrate the importance of the health care community's expertise, the Board intends to develop partnerships for care and health, as well as facilitate the development of relationships between, and among, service providers to build a strong, caring community.

Policy Consultation

Stakeholder Input into Policy Development and Amendment

Hearing the views of stakeholders first hand on policy issues before policies are drafted is important for the Board of Directors. It helps to formulate policy direction and provides a forum that fosters mutual understanding of worker and employer perspectives and where stakeholder consensus can be reached.

The Policy Working Group (PWG) is the forum established to provide direct stakeholder input into the policy development and amendment process. The PWG consists of two members of the Board of Directors (one representative of workers and one representative of employers), the President/CEO (and other staff as appropriate) and two volunteer members from the worker and employer Stakeholder Advisory Committee.

Policies are assigned to the PWG by the Board of Directors on an annual basis. Meetings are usually held monthly (or as needed) to provide education on policy issues and to consult on the views of stakeholders on those issues.

The PWG has an approved terms of reference and work processes defined which are available for review.

Stakeholder Input on Policy Drafts

The Board of Directors has established a Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC): with representatives of worker and employer organizations, which usually meets jointly on a quarterly basis to review policies. The SACs review policy drafts and provide feedback to the Board of Directors regarding the draft policies and provide suggestions for implementation, training and communication of those policies.

Identifying Policy Priorities

Annually, the Board of Directors establishes a list of policy priorities for the coming year. One of the sources for policies to be added to the list of priorities is stakeholders. The Board uses the SAC to gather information regarding which policies stakeholders need to be reviewed or developed and why. This information is then used by the Board as part of the decision making process to set the next year's policy priorities.

Strengthening the Relationship Between Workers & Employers

In addition to the PWG and SAC Committees, the relationship between the worker and employer stakeholder groups is strengthened by the Prevention & Safety Advisory Group (Prevention Group) and through the active encouragement of proposals for joint projects to the Prevention Fund.

The Prevention Group meets quarterly to monitor the Prevention Strategy, Prevention Fund and to give advice to the Board regarding other prevention programs, legislation/regulation and initiatives. The group consists of 25 representatives of industries, worker groups and health care providers – all coming together to work on making Yukon workplaces safe and healthy.

In 2005, the Board established a \$5 million fund to foster workplace health and safety in the Yukon. The Board strongly encourages projects which have workers and employers working together on the initiative. In fact, this is one of the criteria in evaluating proposals to the Fund. Implementation of successful joint projects will lead to more joint projects and a better understanding of the common ownership of health and safety in the workplace.

Financial Reporting

A financially secure, fair and responsive system is a goal of all stakeholders. The Board of Directors believes that stakeholders must be informed about the financial position of the YWCHSB and also values stakeholders' comments and suggestions regarding maintaining the financial status of the organization.

Therefore, before any financial statements or assessment rates are made public, the Board first meets with the SACs to give them the first opportunity to review the information, ask questions and provide feedback. Such opportunities occur at least annually with the financial statements being released by the end of July and the assessment rates at the Annual Information Meeting by the end of September.

Legislative Update

Section 109 Requirement

The *Workers' Compensation Act* requires that the Chair and the President/CEO appear annually before the Legislative Assembly. While this appearance is a legal requirement, the opportunity to demonstrate accountability is welcomed by the Board of Directors. MLAs have the opportunity to publicly ask questions or provide comments regarding the Board's governance of the system and the President's administration of it. It is also an opportunity to gather feedback regarding what issues are important to legislators and to their constituents so that the Board can consider same in their deliberations.

Ministerial Updates

The Chair and President/CEO have quarterly opportunities to meet with the Minister responsible for the YWCHSB:

1. Quarter 1: activity report – the legislation requires that the Board report to the Minister within 90 days after the end of each calendar year on all matters regarding the activities of the YWCHSB.
2. Quarter 2: financial statements – audited financial statements must be presented to the Minister no later than June 30th each year.
3. Quarter 3 – Annual Information Meeting (AIM) – the AIM must be scheduled before September 30th each year. As this is an event to which the media is invited, the Minister must be fully briefed prior to the AIM.
4. Quarter 4 – legislative appearance. As noted in the previous section, the Chair and President/CEO must appear annually before the Legislative Assembly. This generally occurs in the Fall sitting and the Minister must be briefed prior to the appearance.

While the primary purpose of each of these occasions is to provide information to the Minister, each is also an opportunity to listen to the Minister's concerns, suggestions, encouragement, etc regarding the system.

In addition to these four scheduled meetings, other meetings can be called to deal with emerging or urgent issues either at the request of the Minister or the Chair.

The Minister is invited to attend a Board of Directors meeting once each year to meet with the full Board to provide and gather information and to maintain a good relationship with the group of individuals mandated to govern the workers' compensation and occupational health & safety systems for the Yukon Government on behalf of all Yukoners.

Special Projects

In addition to the strategies outlined herein, there may be special projects that arise from time to time where the Board of Directors engage with stakeholders.

An example occurred in 2006 when the Board worked with employer and labour organizations to develop a joint submission to the *Workers' Compensation Act* Review Panel. The structure and purpose of such projects will be determined on a case-by-case basis.