

**FOR RELEASE** #07-017  
February 5, 2007

**MINISTER EXTENDS DEADLINE FOR WORKERS' COMPENSATION ACT REVIEW REPORT**

WHITEHORSE – Brad Cathers, minister responsible for the Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board, has announced that the deadline for receiving the Workers' Compensation Act Review Panel's final report has been extended to April 30, 2007.

"The Workers' Compensation Act Review Panel has requested a further extension to the deadline for the submission of its final report," Cathers said. "In the interest of ensuring that the panel can complete its work and issue a final report, I have agreed to this request."

The Workers' Compensation Act Review Panel, which originally began its work in 2003, has conducted extensive consultations with stakeholders, other interested parties and the general public. This has included public meetings held in Whitehorse, Dawson City, Haines Junction and Watson Lake. The panel is currently composed of members Mike Travill and Ivan Dechkoff.

"The Yukon government appreciates the work being done by the Workers' Compensation Act Review Panel. However, we also recognize that stakeholders want to see this legislation modernized and improved without further delay," Cathers said. "With this in mind, I want to emphasize that it is essential that the Panel's recommendations are received by April 30, as the deadline will not be extended beyond that date."

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