



Yukon Workers'
Compensation
Health and
Safety Board

For Release

August 25, 2011

YWCHSB announces a third consecutive year of Assessment Rate decreases.

WHITEHORSE: The Board of Directors of YWCHSB is pleased to announce decreases in assessment rates for all rate groups in 2012.

Improving safety practices and return to work outcomes for injured workers are contributing to the prevention of disabilities. These are the key factors that led to the Board of Director's decision to lower all rates in 2012.

YWCHSB's continuing internal efficiencies resulted in lowering the amount of administration costs within the average assessment rate for 2012 to \$1.04 from \$1.10 in 2011.

This also contributed to the Board of Director's May 2011 decision to set the average target assessment rate for 2012 at \$2.39 compared to \$2.49 in 2011, a decrease of ten cents.

Specific assessment rates are established based on an actuarial analysis of claims costs and assessable payroll. Unprecedented economic growth in Yukon in 2011 has led to year-end projected numbers of about 600 additional employers and approximately 2,600 more workers this year compared to 2010. Despite these increases, the lost-time injury rate is expected to remain constant or even lower than the 2010 rate of about 2.2 per 100 covered workers.

The nine rate groups will receive rate decreases ranging from 5% to 22%, an average decrease for all industry groups of 13.4%. (See attached 2012 Rate Sheet)

Based on a downward trend of claims costs, Industry # 312-Public Accommodations and Service, is being moved from Services rate group High to Services rate group Medium. Employers in this industry will see their rate drop from a 2011 level of \$3.06 per \$100 of payroll to \$1.61 in 2012, a 47% decrease.

(Continued on back)

It is noteworthy that both Construction rate groups Medium and High are each receiving the greatest rate decrease at 22%. These decreases are possible because of the Construction industry's improved claims experience along with growth in safe work practices, through more involvement with the Certificate of Recognition (COR) program. This industry has also demonstrated improved return to work outcomes for injured workers.

In addition to the 2012 savings in rate reductions, employers can receive more financial rewards by participating in the **CHOICES** program. It provides assessment rate rebates to employers who provide work-related safety and/or return to work training in their workplaces. Employers that have a Certificate of Recognition (COR) automatically get a 10% credit on their assessment premiums up to a maximum of \$25,000. Non-certified employers can receive assessment credits ranging from 4% to 6%.

The Board of Directors firmly believes a continued focus on preventing disabilities for Yukon workers is fundamental to the future viability of the compensation system.

Past announcements of the following year's rates were made between September and November. But this year, actuarial work was completed sooner than expected, allowing earlier consideration of the rates by the Board of Directors. The Board is pleased to be able to follow the wishes of employers in announcing assessment rates as early as possible. This provides employers with more lead time than usual in budget planning for next year's activities.

Contact:

Frank Fry
Public Relations Liaison
Phone: (867) 667-3445