



Yukon Workers'
Compensation
Health and
Safety Board

For Release

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YWCHSB Releases its 2010 Annual Report

WHITEHORSE: The 2010 Annual Report of YWCHSB was released today.

The Annual Report shows an operating surplus of \$14.7 million. The main contributing factor was a significant increase in assessment revenues. An unprecedented increase in economic activity in Yukon driven by the mining and construction sectors drove assessment revenues to record levels. In 2010, assessment revenues were \$30.9 million compared with \$25 million in 2009.

YWCHSB also showed a 7.6% positive return on its investments. With the strong financial results over the last two years, YWCHSB has emerged from the worst market downturn in a generation with a strong balance sheet and in a fully funded position. This means there are sufficient funds to provide full compensation benefits now and in the future for all injured workers and dependents currently in the system with additional funds available to cover unforeseen events.

There were about 1,500 more workers in Yukon in 2010 than the previous year. Despite this increase, the lost-time rate per 100 workers dropped to 2.2 compared with 2.4 last year.

There was a small increase in the number of accepted claims but a slight decrease in the number of injured workers receiving time-loss benefits. This decrease was due, in part, to continued success with both workers and employers using return to work practices in getting injured workers back on the job as safely and quickly as possible as part of the healing process.

YWCHSB administration continues to focus on controlling costs and streamlining operations without impacting service levels. In 2010, general and administrative costs decreased by 1.5% from 2009.

Unfortunately, there were two worker fatalities in 2010. A young worker at the Wolverine Mine was fatally injured when a section of wall in an underground area collapsed April 25th. Another worker passed away due to an occupational disease. The worker was diagnosed in 2007 with lung disease caused by asbestosis. He succumbed to the disease in October 2010.

Members of the media are invited to attend the June 2nd Annual Information Meeting (AIM) at YWCHSB offices to ask additional questions about the 2010 Annual Report. We also hope to have a positive announcement about the average assessment rate for employers in 2012 at the AIM.

Prior to June 2nd, you are encouraged to review the 2010 Annual Report, which can be found on the YWCHSB website: www.wcb.yk.ca

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