



Yukon Workers'  
Compensation  
Health and  
Safety Board



## **For Release**

March 3, 2011

### **YWCHSB and IAFF Whitehorse Local 2217 issue joint statement**

#### **(Whitehorse – March 3, 2011)**

Yukon firefighters and the Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board are concerned about inaccuracies in recent media coverage of presumptive legislation for Yukon firefighters.

Yukon firefighters have never submitted a claim for work related cancers and have not "had to fight" YWCHSB. Further, Yukon firefighters already have guaranteed coverage for work related cancers, as do all Yukon workers.

Rather, the addition of a presumption clause into the *Workers' Compensation Act* would free the Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board from having to do the normal adjudication process when a firefighter, or former firefighter, is diagnosed with certain forms of cancer.

Working together with firefighters, the proposed presumptive legislation had been prepared for tabling in the current legislative session. However, the International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) recently submitted a request to include four additional types of cancer (skin, multiple myeloma, breast, and prostate) and sought a meeting with the Minister, understanding that this would delay the legislation.

The delay creates an opportunity for the necessary discussion of issues, such as the link between firefighting and the specific additional types of cancers proposed for presumptive coverage.

Yukon firefighters, the Yukon Government and the Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board continue to work together to develop presumptive legislation, as well as to implement better ways to protect firefighters from hazards that could cause cancers.

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