



Yukon Workers'
Compensation
Health and
Safety Board

For Release

February 19, 2010

YWCHSB Announces Re-Employment Protection For Injured Workers

WHITEHORSE: The Government of Yukon has proclaimed Section 41 of the *Yukon Workers' Compensation Act* effective January 1, 2011.

This legislation provides re-employment protection for injured workers once they are medically able to perform their pre-injury duties and outlines employers' obligations to re-employ.

Section 41 only affects employers who have 20 or more workers. About 150 Yukon employers, including the Government of Yukon, as well as Municipal and First Nations' governments, fall under this legislation.

It provides specific guidelines, remedies and penalties to deal with re-employment obligations.

Workers injured on or after January 1, 2011 and who were in a continuous employment relationship for at least a year with their employer are covered by this legislation.

In 2007 consultations were completed with all stakeholders on amendments to the *Workers' Compensation Act*. Stakeholders approved all amendments July 1, 2008 including Section 41.

Over the next 10 months, YWCHSB will continue its work with stakeholders to develop specific policies to administer this section of the *Act*.

YWCHSB will also be providing information sessions for affected employers and workers to ensure they understand and are prepared to comply with the legislation when it comes into effect.

The legislation is in line with the *Human Rights Act* which prohibits discrimination based on disabilities. Section 41 will potentially save workers and employers from going through an often lengthy process under Human Rights legislation.

It also aligns Yukon with seven other jurisdictions in the country that have similar legislation.

Contact:

Frank Fry
Public Relations Liaison
Tel: 667-3445
E-mail: frank.fry@gov.yk.ca