

June 9, 2000

## **Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board Looking for Public Comments**

The Board of Directors of the Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board is seeking the public's opinion on one of its most controversial policies—CL-35 "Loss of Earnings Benefits." A draft policy statement and consultation package is now available to the public.

Policy CL-35 "Loss of Earnings Benefits" provides a uniform method of calculating earnings loss benefits for disabled workers. (This policy was previously known as CL-35 "Average Weekly Earnings.") CL-35 affects workers who have suffered a work-related disability and are eligible for compensation. As well, it affects employers through the assessments they pay to the Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board.

CL-35 has been a source of dispute for both the Board and the Board's stakeholders. It has been reviewed by the Board of Directors on three previous occasions. On each of these occasions, the Board found it challenging to reach a consensus on how to change the policy. The Board is entrusted with balancing the interests of both workers and employers—for controversial policies, this balancing point can be difficult to find.

In an attempt to resolve the controversy, the Board introduced an interim policy in December 1999 and promised to develop a "permanent" policy statement in the near future. Concerns and potential solutions were researched and debated, and the Workers' and Employers' Advisory Committees were consulted. On May 30, the Board agreed to take a new CL-35 draft policy to public consultation. The Board will be gathering public comment on this draft until the end of July.

The public consultation package contains a draft policy statement, background information, a question and answer

overview, and a questionnaire. Packages may be picked up at the Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board building on Fourth Avenue and Strickland Street. You can call (867) 667-5645 or 1-800-661-0443 (tollfree) and request that a copy be mailed to you. The package will be [available on the Board's website](#). In addition, you can mail the Board at Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board, 401 Strickland Street, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 5N8 and request a copy.

Submissions must be in by July 31, 2000. They should be mailed to the attention of the Board chair, Dale Schmekel, at the Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board, 401 Strickland Street, Whitehorse, Yukon, Y1A 5N8. Comments may also be emailed to: [Board@gov.yk.ca](mailto:Board@gov.yk.ca).

Two information meetings will be held at the Gold Rush Inn in Whitehorse: July 18 from 6 pm – 9 pm and July 19 from 1 pm - 4 pm. These meetings will provide a forum for asking questions and submitting comments.

The Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board is a crown corporation that administers both the *Workers' Compensation Act* and the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*. It is run by a Board of Directors made up of two employer and two worker representatives, a neutral chair and an alternate chair. The chair of the Appeal Tribunal and the president and CEO of the Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board sit on the Board as non-voting members. Under the *Workers' Compensation Act* and the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*, the Board of Directors has the power to establish all policies of the Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board.

For more information please contact:

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## **CL-35 "Loss of Earnings Benefits" - Public Consultation**

### **PRESS CONFERENCE**

The Board of Directors will be holding a press conference on the draft policy and public consultation process on:

**Tuesday, June 13, 2000**

**10 am**

**Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board building**

**401 Strickland Street (corner of Fourth Avenue and Strickland)**

Dale Schmekel, the chair of the board, will be available to answer the media's questions.

Please call Tina Sebert at 667-8695 if you would like to have a consultation package faxed to you before the conference. The package is also [available on our website](#).