



**YUKON WORKERS' COMPENSATION
HEALTH AND SAFETY BOARD** **COMMISSION DE LA
SANTÉ ET DE LA SÉCURITÉ
AU TRAVAIL
DU YUKON**

News Release

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Young Workers Urged to “Keep All Eyes on Safety”

Yukoners aged 12 to 17 are urged to “Keep all eyes on Safety” during the Yukon Workers’ Compensation Health and Safety Board’s third annual Young Worker Safety Contest.

In July and August, distinctive yellow displays in restaurants, stores and other locations throughout the Yukon will invite young people to enter the contest and learn about safety on the job. The displays show a youth’s face with safety glasses and the message, “All eyes on safety.”

Many young Yukoners in the target age group have started their first job or are planning to in the next year or two.

“Young people often don’t have the life experience or knowledge to understand their risks on the job, or their right to safety,” said Rob McClure, the YWCHSB’s A/Director of Occupational Health and Safety. “Even a paper route has risks—bad weather, angry dogs, traffic—so it’s important young people learn early about workplace safety and carry that awareness on into their adult working lives.”

The contest follows up to the highly successful “Give Workplace Injuries the Boot!” contest first launched in 2001. There were about 4,000 entries last year, and 3,000 the year before. Participants fill out ballots with questions and tips on workplace safety.

This year, the contest goes further by providing every participant with a small gift in the mail, along with educational material on workplace safety. Participants will also be eligible for three big prizes – a mini stereo system, a Sony CD Walkman and a prepaid cellular phone donated by NMI Mobility. (If the winner lives in a community where cellular service is not available, they will receive the cash value of the phone, \$180.)

“Young people are at higher risk than older workers of injury on the job,” said YWCHSB President, Tony Armstrong. “July and August are when the greatest numbers of young workers are hurt. This contest catches the attention of young Yukoners and provides them with key information to help keep them safe at work.”

The campaign is part of the YWCHSB's focus on the prevention of workplace accidents and injuries to keep people safe at work and to control the rising costs of claims.

Young workers are defined as those under 25. In the Yukon, 128 young workers were injured in 2002; 117 were injured in 2001. The majority -- about 74 per cent -- were males.

The causes are usually over-exertion or contact with objects or equipment. The main injuries are sprains, strains, bruises, cuts, fractures and burns.

Just over 52 per cent of the injuries to Yukon young workers between 1997 and 2002 occurred in the service industry.

The YWCHSB provides worksite safety courses in Yukon schools and also partners with Skills Canada Yukon to provide after-school courses for young workers. As well, the YWCHSB has guides on young worker safety for employers and parents. For information, call (867) 667 5450, toll free 1 800 661 0443, ext. 5450, or e-mail worksafe@gov.yk.ca.

Young worker safety is also the focus of a public forum hosted by the Association of Workers' Compensation Boards of Canada in Montreal, October 26 to 28, 2003. For more information, go to the Web site: www.opus3.com/forum.

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