



**YUKON WORKERS'
COMPENSATION
HEALTH AND
SAFETY BOARD**

News Release

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Board Amends Policy on Lump Sum Payments

The Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board has amended its Lump Sum and Advances Policy, following public consultation. The policy applies to earlier workers' compensation legislation and affects about 30 workers injured before 1993.

"We thank everyone who submitted comments," said Craig Tuton, Chair of the Board of Directors. "We have amended the policy to address some of the key concerns that were raised."

The policy has been amended so it does not apply to applications received before the date it took effect -- March 29, 2005. It has also been amended to provide workers who receive lump sums with annuities at age 65. Both issues were raised by the Yukon Federation of Labour and the Official Opposition during the consultation.

"After reviewing the submissions, we did not implement all of the recommendations we received," said Tuton. "In light of the recent Yukon Supreme Court decision, we have concluded the conditions in the policy are supported by the objectives of the *Workers' Compensation Act*. We believe the conditions are reasonable and balance the needs and interests of workers with our fiduciary responsibility to the compensation fund."

In his decision, Yukon Supreme Court Justice Ron Veale wrote: "I find that each of the conditions in the policy can be supported by reference to the objectives set out in the Act. The conditions, while more onerous than the previous policy, are generally designed to ensure that the worker has the ability to manage a lump sum as the worker cannot go back to the board if the lump sum is mismanaged or lost. The latter outcome would surely be a disaster for both the worker and the board."

Consultation submissions are available at the YWCHSB and at www.wcb.yk.ca.

Contact:
Becky Striegler, Public Relations Liaison
Tel: 867.667.8695
becky.striegler@gov.yk.ca