



**For Release**

November 23, 2007

**YWCHSB Announces 2008 Assessment Rates**

Whitehorse— The Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board has announced employer assessment rates for 2008. These rates are set by the Board of Directors, based on thorough actuarial analysis of injury rates, claims costs, risks and trends in each industry.

In the employer-supported workers' compensation system, assessment rates must ensure that enough is collected to cover claims costs. As a result, assessment rates will increase in 2008 for 39 of the 52 industry groups in Yukon.

Three of the 39 industries received rate increases because they were reclassified into higher risk categories. They are Diamond Drilling, Exploration and Placer Mining. A review of these industries' claims histories shows their continually increasing claims costs are exceeding the average of their current rate group. YWCHSB will not hold all other industries in a rate group financially accountable for one of its member's poor safety performance.

The Board also considered the heightened risk factors with rapid industry growth, which often requires the employment of potentially inexperienced workers.

Diamond Drilling received the highest rate increase - 27%. Exploration and Placer Mining each received a rate increase of 12%.

13 industries have improved their performance and that's resulted in the lowering of rates by 14% for nine of those industries and 4% for the other three. These industries are to be congratulated for improving workplace safety and decreasing their claims costs.

The maximum compensable wage rate in Yukon for 2008 is \$74,100. The average assessment rate for 2008 is \$ 2.94, the highest average rate in Canada.

YWCHSB will be meeting shortly with employers to present them with a detailed picture of their claims history and to discuss effective ways to work together to get their assessment rates down.

We also encourage employers who are concerned about their rates to sign up for our CHOICES incentive program. CHOICES can provide immediate rate relief while helping to improve workplace safety, which in turn works toward lowering assessment rates.

YWCHSB cannot prevent workplace injuries and rising assessment rates. We can only help those who can prevent injuries, meaning every employer and worker in Yukon.

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