



**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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Workplace safety contest reaches hundreds of young Yukoners

Young Yukoners have won again – in both prizes and awareness of workplace safety – in the third annual Young Worker Safety Contest run by the Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board.

The names of the winners of the territory-wide contest were drawn yesterday afternoon at Skills Canada Yukon in Whitehorse.

“We're pleased that we have engaged young Yukoners and have also provided them with important messages about safety at work,” said Tony Armstrong, president and chief executive officer of the YWCHSB.

The YWCHSB introduced the contest in 2001 to draw attention to the fact that young workers under 25 -- particularly males -- are at higher risk of workplace injury than other workers.

“Young workers are vulnerable because they're inexperienced, they hesitate to ask questions and they often aren't provided the training they need,” said Armstrong. “Our contest helps make youth aware of their rights and of the importance of safety.”

The contest ran this summer throughout the Yukon. Youth had to correctly answer a quiz about workplace safety to qualify for the grand prizes. Of the thousands of entries, the contest reached between 500 and 600 individual youth between the ages 12 and 17. That's close to 20 per cent of the Yukon's population of that age group.

“That is a phenomenal success,” said Armstrong. “Our goal was to reach 10 per cent, so we have doubled the number of young people we hoped to reach with our message about workplace safety.”

Each contest participant was mailed a package of gifts, educational material on workplace safety, and an invitation to take a worksite safety course offered by Skills Canada Yukon and the YWCHSB.

Co-sponsors included Yukon Energy, NorthwEstel and the Yukon News. Prize donors were the Yukon Electrical Company, Canadian Tire, NMI Mobility Inc. and Subway.

In 2001, close to 63,000 young workers were injured on the job in Canada, and 57 were killed. In 2002, 128 young workers were injured in the Yukon. The main injuries were

sprains, bruises, cuts, fractures and burns. Two young workers have died on the job in the Yukon since 1994.

Just over 52 per cent of the injuries to young Yukon workers between 1997 and 2002 occurred in the service industry. Construction had the second highest percentage of young worker injuries.

Young worker safety is the focus of a public forum hosted by the Association of Workers' Compensation Boards of Canada in Montreal, October 26 to 28. See attached news release, or go to the Web site: www.opus3.com/forum.

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