

WCB's 2010 Annual Report Focuses on Decrease in Injuries, Lower Rates

The Workers Compensation Board of Manitoba (WCB) released its 2010 Annual Report. It was highlighted by a decrease in the time loss injury rate as the result of successful prevention efforts by the WCB, its partners, and the workers and employers of Manitoba. The WCB also released its 2011–2015 Five Year Plan.

“Ongoing injury prevention initiatives helped to decrease the time loss injury rate by 41 per cent over the past decade,” says WCB President and CEO Doug Sexsmith. “The time loss injury rate decreased to an estimated 3.3 per 100 full time workers in 2010, the lowest on record for Manitoba. This means year after year, thousands more workers are coming home safely.”

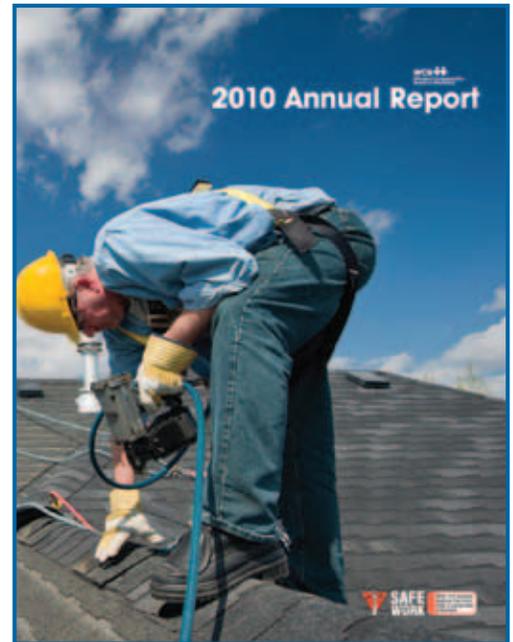
Injured workers also spent less time off the job in 2010 as a result of employers’ and workers’ focused efforts to help ensure workers return to health and meaningful work as soon as they can safely do so. Return to work programs minimize the impact of an injury, promote recovery

and manage associated costs while benefiting both workers and employers.

The success of prevention and return to health and work efforts along with continued positive investment returns in 2010 contributed to excellent financial results, which enabled the WCB to decrease the 2011 assessment rate. The WCB’s reserves increased \$90 million - an outcome that exceeded financial plans. The WCB will make progress towards its reserve target throughout the course of the 2011-2015 Five Year Plan.

In 2010, the WCB continued to modernize by introducing additional technology to improve its processes and ultimately, its service. A new, electronic-based system in the assessment services area will increase efficiency, enhance the level of customer service provided and create a foundation for future online services. The WCB also continued to support Manitoba employers and workers by announcing the opening of a new WCB location in Brandon, Manitoba, in 2012.

Along with its partners at the Workplace Safety and Health Division and in the community, the WCB continued to promote injury prevention and return to health and work initiatives in 2010.



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- Doug Sexsmith,
WCB President and CEO

In this Issue

New WCB Office to Be Located in Downtown Brandon	2
Hiring Contractors	2
WCB Appoints Director of New Office in Brandon, Manitoba.	3
Enhanced Coverage for Business Owners	3
Review Your 2011 Estimated Payroll	3
SAFE Work Campaign Asks Youth - ARE YOU SAFE?	4

New WCB Office to Be Located in Downtown Brandon

The WCB has selected an office site for its new regional office in Brandon, Manitoba.

The WCB has agreed to a conditional offer to lease with Renaissance Station Inc. for two units at 457-9th Street on the northeast corner of 9th Street and Victoria Avenue in Brandon, across from City Hall. The two units are located on the main floor of the building and offer approximately 5,248 square feet of space.

“This is an important decision and a great move forward in the WCB’s expansion to Brandon,” says Doug Sexsmith, WCB President and CEO. “This facility meets all of our

requirements and the location is readily accessible to injured workers, employers, and future staff members.”

“We are excited to be one step closer to having a physical presence in Brandon. We look forward to providing face-to-face support in preventing injuries, compensating injured workers and helping them return to health and meaningful work,” says Dan Robertson, WCB Brandon Regional Office Director.

The Brandon office will open in early 2012 and is planned to provide initial adjudication of claims, case management functions, healthcare examinations, vocational

rehabilitation, SAFE Work services and some assessment services. The office will initially be staffed with 15.5 positions.

The WCB is looking for local staff for its Brandon office. There was a good response at a career booth at the Brandon Shoppers Mall June 17 and 18.

The Brandon regional office will service workers and employers located in Brandon and surrounding areas. In 2013, the catchment area for the office will be expanded and the office is expected to add four new staff members at that time.

Hiring Contractors

Many businesses in contract-based industries such as construction, trucking, logging, janitorial, oil and gas, and towing use the services of contractors. What businesses hiring contractors may not fully understand is they may be responsible for providing WCB coverage for those contractors.

Bob Craddock, Director of Assessment Services explains WCB auditors find the most common mistake made by businesses are related to hired contractors. Businesses who don’t ensure their contractors have their own WCB coverage are not aware they need to report unregistered contractor’s earnings as part of their own payroll. If the contractor experiences an injury while working for the business, the claim may be tied to the business’ experience rating and may impact future rates.

If the contractor is registered but hasn’t paid their premium, the business who hired them may be responsible for the contractor’s premium.

“In any of these cases, this can leave a business vulnerable and ultimately cost them financially,” explains Craddock.

But it is an easy fix. Regular use of the WCB’s Online Clearance system is the most efficient way to make sure you are meeting your responsibilities and protecting yourself. All individuals and firms hired on a contract basis should be checked through the Clearance system.

If you can’t find your contractor in the system or if they do not show good standing status, you need to contact the WCB so we can determine whether they will be deemed to be your worker(s) and if you need to include their earnings in your payroll calculations. If the subcontractor is

in good standing, you do not need to include their earnings in your payroll calculations.

Clearances can be obtained through any of the following methods:

- Visit the Online Directory at www.wcb.mb.ca
- Use the Automated Phone and Fax Back Service (requires account numbers) by calling 954-4988 in Winnipeg, or 1-800-362-3340 ext. 4988 toll free
- Register your own Interactive Online List by calling 954-4803 in Winnipeg, or 1-866-751-9245 toll free.

The status of subcontractors on this system only applies to firms in contract-based industries. If you are in a non-contract based industry and you see the status “deemed worker”, or if you cannot find your contractor in the system, you need to contact the WCB to verify their status (204-954-4505 or toll free in Canada at 1-800-362-3340).

WCB Appoints Director of New Office in Brandon, Manitoba

The Workers Compensation Board of Manitoba (WCB) announced that Mr. Dan Robertson has been hired as the Director of the WCB's new regional office in Brandon, Manitoba.

The Brandon office will open in early 2012 and is planned to provide initial adjudication of claims and case management functions. In addition, it will offer a range of services such as healthcare examinations, vocational rehabilitation and SAFE Work services as well as some assessment services. It will service workers and employers located in Brandon and surrounding areas.

"We are excited to be welcoming Mr. Robertson to the WCB and to be moving ahead in the development of a WCB office in Brandon," says Doug Sexsmith, WCB President and CEO. "This announcement brings us one step closer to providing Brandon workers and employers with face-to-face help on preventing injuries and returning workers to health and meaningful work in the event workplace injuries occur."

Mr. Robertson is currently the General Manager of the Keystone Agricultural and Recreational Centre in Brandon. In his capacity as Director of the Brandon regional office, Mr. Robertson will lead the operations and implement the goals and objectives of the regional office.

Mr. Robertson is a long-time resident of Brandon who holds a degree in Business Administration from Brandon University and a Certified General Accountant (C.G.A.) designation.

Enhanced Coverage for Business Owners

The Workers Compensation Board (WCB) recently made improvements to the Personal (Special) Coverage insurance package available to business owners operating in Manitoba.

Personal Coverage is workers compensation insurance that can be purchased by individuals not automatically covered by *The Workers Compensation Act*.

The WCB introduced a guaranteed minimum benefit level for holders of Personal Coverage. When there is a loss of earnings due to a workplace injury or illness, wage loss benefits will be based on not less than the WCB's minimum level of coverage which in 2011 is \$20,597. Substantiation of earnings will not be required in order to receive the minimum wage loss benefit.

Individuals who purchase Personal

Coverage above the minimum will have to substantiate the level of coverage purchased before benefits will be paid at that level. They may substantiate the earnings level at the time of injury or when the coverage is purchased. If they choose to substantiate at the time of injury, they will immediately be eligible for the minimum level of coverage. Once they substantiate their earnings, the benefits will be retroactively adjusted to the date of injury.

The WCB also streamlined the administrative process for employers, eliminating the need for an annual reconciliation of coverage with actual earnings.

If you would like more information about Personal Coverage, please see the Personal (Special) Coverage for Business Owners fact sheet available on the WCB website at www.wcb.mb.ca under Publications.

Review Your 2011 Estimated Payroll

Employers are reminded to review their 2011 payroll estimate provided to us at the beginning of the year. If you anticipate the estimate you provided has or could change by more than 5%, up or down, prior to the end of the year, please let us know as soon as possible. This will minimize the potential of having interest calculated on the difference between your estimated assessment and your actual assessment for 2011.

Changes to your 2011 payroll estimate

can be submitted by mail, fax or phone. Please be sure to include your account number with all correspondence.

Assessment Services
210-363 Broadway
Winnipeg, MB R3C 3N9

Fax: 954-4900
Toll-free fax: 1-866-245-0796

Phone: 954-4567
Toll-free phone: 1-800-362-3340

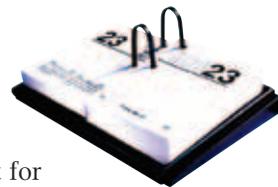
Dates to Remember

Quarterly Firms

July 20, 2011 – The Quarterly Remittance and payment for the second quarter of 2011 must be received at the WCB by this date for firms reporting payroll on a quarterly basis.

Annual Firms

August 31, 2011 – The second installment must be received at the WCB by this date for firms reporting payroll on an annual basis and paying in installments.





SAFE Work Campaign Asks Youth - ARE YOU SAFE?

The WCB, in partnership with Workplace Safety and Health, is launching "Tales from the Creep," the 2011 edition of its SAFE Work youth campaign.

Targeted at young workers aged 15 to 24, the campaign focuses on encouraging youth to ask questions and recognize and practice the SAFE Work risk management model: Spot the hazard, Assess the risk, Find a safer way, Everyday.

"This summer many youth will enter the work force as new workers, unaware of the possible hazards that may cause an injury," says Jennifer Howard, Minister of Labour and Immigration. "The timing of this campaign couldn't be more important, as it raises their awareness of workplace safety and health and training. Our goal is to reach young people now and create safe workers for life."

The campaign features online webisodes at www.safemanitoba.com where youth are challenged to assess the risk in three workplace scenarios. The webisodes encourage youth to ask questions and to recognize and practice the SAFE personal risk management model, Spot the hazard, Assess the risk, Find a safer way, Everyday.

To ensure youth learn about workplace safety and training, media components such as billboards, and posters and social media such as Facebook and YouTube, will drive visitors to safemanitoba.com where youth will view the videos and engage



in workplace safety by answering an online quiz. Upon correctly identifying the SAFE personal risk management model, youth will receive a ballot to enter to win a MacBook or iPad.

"We are opening a dialogue with youth using their language and talking to them where they socialize online through YouTube and Facebook," Doug Sexsmith, WCB President and CEO. "The SAFE Work message becomes important to young people when it is part of the online communities they frequent. Our goal is to have them continue that conversation where they work,

ultimately finding their collective voice and asserting their right to a safe workplace."

"As a young worker, I know it can be hard to bring up safety concerns with your supervisor. This fun and interactive campaign encourages youth to raise their safety concerns and to ask for help in order to protect themselves and their co-workers," says Rebecca Simpson, Occupational Safety Presenter, SAFE Workers of Tomorrow.

Update is also available in a large print version.

Return undeliverable copies to:

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