



WCB update

June 2007

WCB and Connect Employment Services Agency Form Partnership

WCB offers on-the-job training to persons with disabilities as part of community outreach efforts

The Workers Compensation Board of Manitoba (WCB) and Connect Employment Services Agency (Connect) signed a partnership agreement on April 18 which will see



WCB President and CEO Doug Sexsmith signs the partnership agreement as Connect Executive Director Krista Bissett and CUPE Local 1063 President Dave Cutler look on.

the WCB offer paid on-the-job training for persons with intellectual disabilities.

WCB President and CEO Doug Sexsmith, CUPE Local 1063 President Dave Cutler and Connect Executive Director Krista Bissett signed the partnership agreement at the Royal Canadian Mint during the Connect awards event “Sweet Success”.

According to Sexsmith, the agreement is an example of the WCB’s commitment to support its diversity program by enhancing partnerships within the community.

“The WCB is committed to being a valued member of the community and we, as an organization, are happy to collaboratively build a community that incorporates the inclusion of people with disabilities,” Sexsmith said.

Currently, the WCB already provides paid on-the-job training for Connect



WCB and Connect Employment Services – working in partnership.

clients, which Bissett describes as a “win-win situation” for everybody involved.

“The placement helps our clients build new skills, competencies and self-confidence while being exposed to employer expectations and employee responsibilities,” Bissett said.

Connect Employment Services is a non-profit employment agency offering support for adults with intellectual disabilities. Connect clients work in a variety of industries and jobs in integrated community settings.

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Employers Assessed Annually: Review your Estimated Workers Earnings

The WCB will no longer issue reminder letters to most employers to review their estimate of workers' earnings. However, if your estimate has changed, you can still make an adjustment at any time during the calendar year.

It is important to keep your estimate as accurate as possible because it is used for billing and to determine assessment rates. Also, interest may be calculated on the difference between your estimated assessment and final assessment.

Estimated workers' earnings changes can be submitted in writing, by fax or by phone. Please be sure to include your firm number with all correspondence.

Employer 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

New Look for Online Incident Reporting System

The Online Incident Reporting System is a secure Internet application that allows employers to electronically submit incident reports they initiate or complete when a claim is started by another party such as a healthcare provider or injured worker. We've updated this system with a new look; however, the same useful functions are still available.

Employers can access the Online Incident Reporting System from the Online Services section of the WCB website located at www.wcb.mb.ca. If you're new to the system or want to familiarize yourself with the system's new look, you can check out the updated Online Incident Reporting User's Guide also located in the Online Services section of the WCB website. The guide will show users how to use the system to create, save and print your incident reports.

Employers already familiar with the system may notice that the name has changed from Online Accident Reporting System to Online Incident Reporting System. We've made this change to reflect that there are workplace injuries and illnesses. The word change also supports our SAFE Work injury prevention initiative. It's important for Manitobans to realize that for the most part, there are no such things as accidents. They're preventable and are not an inevitable part of working life.

If you would like to register to use the Online Incident Reporting System, you can call the WCB Technical Support Team at 954-4803 in Winnipeg or toll free at 1-866-751-9245. A WCB Technical Support Team Member will help you with registration.

New Coverage Laws for Paid Family Members of Business Owners

Effective January 1, 2006, WCB coverage for the paid family members of business owners and corporate directors became mandatory.

Prior to 2006, paid family members who resided with the business owner or corporate director were not covered unless special application had been made to the WCB. With the new legislation, even family members who reside with the business owner are covered.

This means that family members of sole proprietors, partners and corporate directors who receive pay from the owner's business are covered in the event of a work-related injury. As well, employers must include amounts paid to family members in the workers' earnings totals reported to the WCB.

Here's an example: In 2007, the spouse of a sole proprietor receives a salary of \$25,000 annually from the business for providing administrative services. The \$25,000 paid to the spouse is assessable and so the sole proprietor must report that amount to the WCB. While performing filing functions for the business, the spouse trips over a filing cabinet and injures her leg. Because the spouse is a paid family member and now has mandatory coverage, she may pursue a claim with the WCB.

If you did not include family members when you submitted your 2006 or 2007 workers earnings amounts to the WCB, you can revise the amount reported by calling Employer Accounts at 954-4567 or toll-free at 1-800-362-3340.

Parkland Regional Health Authority First Manitoba Organization to Receive Disability Management Award

The Parkland Regional Health Authority (PRHA) has been awarded the International Disability Management Standards Council Certification after achieving higher than 80 percent in an audit that assesses how workplaces treat injured and ill employees.

The PRHA is the first organization in Manitoba and the first regional health authority in Canada to receive this certification.

“This certification is a testament to the commitment of our employees and to the health and welfare of our staff,” says Mavis Wood, Interim CEO of the Parkland Regional Health Authority. “By ensuring that injured and disabled staff return to work in a safe and timely manner, we’re ultimately able to provide better care to our patients. We’ve shifted the focus of our attention from what staff can’t do to what they can do.”

The Consensus Based Disability Management Audit (CBDMA), administered by the National Institute of Disability Management and Research (NIDMAR), is funded by the Workers Compensation Board of Manitoba’s Community Initiatives and Research Program. Workplaces are assessed in three categories: disability management policies; disability and injury prevention programs; and timely return to work processes.

The audit identifies strengths or gaps and provides employers with a report that helps them lower injury rates, return workers to employment and health, and reduce overall expenditures.

“This is another important step in our goal to create a culture of safety in Manitoba,” says Dave Scott, Vice-President of Rehabilitation and Compensation Services, Workers Compensation Board of Manitoba. “By investing proactively in disability management, the PRHA also benefits by realizing significant savings on their WCB premiums. It’s a win-win situation.”

The audit focuses on disability management, which provides a proactive approach to helping injured workers return to work in a safe and timely manner. Having comprehensive programs in place are crucial to helping



Dr. Garry Corbett, Disability Management Consultant, Mary Anne Harrison, Disability Manager, Mavis Wood, Interim CEO, PRHA, and Dave Scott, Vice-President of Rehabilitation and Compensation Services, WCB, were all on hand for the disability management award presentation on March 26.

workers recover, and to reducing the human and financial cost of workplace illnesses and injuries.

“Parkland has certainly demonstrated a leadership role by receiving this certification,” says Dr. Garry Corbett, the Disability Management Consultant who administered the audit. “This is an exceptional achievement - one that provides an international standard and sets an example for other organizations in the healthcare sector.”

Dates to Remember

July 20, 2007 – The Quarterly Remittance for the second quarter of 2007 and payment must be received at the WCB by this date for firms reporting on a quarterly basis.

August 31, 2007 – The second instalment must be received at the WCB by this date for firms reporting workers’ earnings on an annual basis and paying in instalments.



SAFE Work Partners Aim to Increase Safety in Construction Sector through Awareness and Enforcement

The Workers Compensation Board (WCB) and the Workplace Safety and Health Division (WSHD), together with SAFE Work partners in construction, are highlighting safety across Manitoba's busy construction sector.

Activity in this industry has been on the rise over the past several years. With this increase in activity comes a heightened need for prevention efforts. An important step is enhancing awareness of safety among both workers and employers in the construction sector.

SAFE Work partners are doing so through an ongoing public awareness campaign, one component of which is the "Sounds of Construction" commercial which began airing in May. The ad is one part of the initiative between the WCB and the WSHD aimed at preventing injuries in Manitoba's construction sector.

Since 2005, the WSHD has added three new Safety and Health Officers to this important sector, who are working with employers and safety associations to ensure the maintenance of safety practices and compliance with regulations.

"With the construction industry growing and new, young workers entering this sector of our workforce everyday, we must be more diligent than ever in preventing injuries and ensure we have SAFE Work on every job site," says Minister of Labour and Immigration Nancy Allan.



WCB Chairperson Tom Farrell kicks off the Sounds of Construction public awareness campaign at the site of the new Manitoba Hydro Building.

The prevention message will also be carried directly onto construction sites. The WCB is hiring two graduates from the Red River College Safety and Health Program who, in partnership with the Winnipeg Construction Association and the Manitoba Heavy Construction Association, will visit construction sites to spread the safety message and provide information about prevention resources.

"We're committed to fostering a safe and healthy work environment for all Manitobans," says WCB Chairperson Tom Farrell. "Through our SAFE

Work partnerships, we're helping to raise awareness, educate our workforce and target our efforts in key industries where they're needed most."

The Sounds of Construction commercial will air until the end of June.

The **SAFE Work** strategy is a joint initiative of the WCB and WSHD to prevent workplace injuries and illnesses through promotion, protection and education.

SAFE: Spot the hazard. Assess the risk. Find a safer way. Everyday.

Update is also available in a large print version.

Return undeliverable copies to:

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