



WCB update

April 2009

WCB Welcomes Newly Covered Employers

As part of the WCB's recent extension of coverage, a number of new employers, many of which are in the agricultural sector, have now been added to the workers compensation system effective January 1, 2009.

"This broadened base of coverage means greater continuity of coverage for workers and a more level playing field for employers," says WCB President and CEO Doug Sexsmith.

As part of the WCB's initiative to welcome newly covered employers and workers, information sessions across the province were conducted last November. Newly covered employers also received a welcome brochure and reference guide, available online at www.wcb.mb.ca under Newly Covered Industries.

Workers compensation coverage provides many advantages for Manitoba employers, including:

- Protection from lawsuits for work-related injuries and illnesses



- Premium rates that are among the lowest in Canada
- Advantages for working safely through reduced premiums
- Payment and payroll reporting options
- Expertise in injury prevention and disability management to minimize the impact of workplace injuries.

Injured workers also receive a full range of benefits, such as wage replacement, healthcare treatments and rehabilitation services with no waiting period.

"As we welcome newly covered employers, we'll continue to provide the same high level of service that we've always provided – service that is fast, easy, caring, right and clear," says Doug Sexsmith.

Here's a look at the industries that have been added to the workers compensation system effective January 1, 2009:

- Advertising and Marketing
- Animal Services
- Auction and Appraisal
- Audiovisual and Multimedia
- Production
- Beekeeping
- Brokers and Sales Agents
- Call Centres
- Camps
- Car or Truck Rental
- Cemeteries
- Driving Schools
- Farming (other than family members), including incidental activities
- Farm-Related Services
- Fitness or Spa Facility
- Flea Market
- Freight Shipping
- Gaming
- Graphic Design, Interior Design or Decorating, Drafting
- Greenhouses
- Hatcheries
- Laboratories
- Livestock Market
- Mail Order Sales
- Museums and Galleries
- Photography
- Political Parties (including Constituency Offices)
- Rental Services
- Research
- Schools (excluding Teachers)
- Social Services
- Unions and Labour Organizations
- Vermin Extermination
- Veterinary Services

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NAOSH Week Returns May 3 – 9

From May 3 to 9, NAOSH Week will once again be helping workers make it home safely.

Promoting the theme “**Make It Home Safe Every Day**”, North American Occupational Safety and Health (NAOSH) Week is back for a thirteenth year of helping employers focus on the importance of preventing injury and illness in the workplace and raise understanding and awareness of safety and health issues.

The Canadian launch of NAOSH Week 2009 will be held in Winnipeg at New Flyer Industries on Monday, May 4. This event marks the beginning of NAOSH Week and will include keynote presentations, displays and interactive demonstrations.

NAOSH Week presents an excellent opportunity to focus, reinforce and strengthen commitment to occupational safety and health. Participation and involvement in NAOSH Week has been shown to:

- Improve attitudes towards safety
- Increase understanding of the importance of occupational health and safety
- Foster a safety-minded culture
- Increase co-operation
- Raise awareness
- Assist in team building, and improve communication between employees, safety committees and safety professionals.

For more information on NAOSH Week, visit www.naosh.ca or www.csse.org.

Research Funds Available to Employers Through New RWIP Program

The WCB has consulted with its stakeholders about the Community Initiatives and Research Program (CIRP), which has supported over 100 projects focusing on reducing the incidence and impact of workplace injuries since 1997. As a result, a new program, the Research and Workplace Innovation Program (RWIP), will replace the CIRP beginning in 2009.

The RWIP will make available \$1 million each year to fund workplace-based programs that develop, implement or evaluate innovative, practical, shop-floor solutions for improving workplace health and safety, as well as high quality scientific research.

“The WCB, through the RWIP, helps its partners in the community to create innovative projects that reduce workplace injuries and disease and help workers recover from injuries,” says WCB President and CEO Doug Sexsmith. “This helps employers through reduced costs of business associated with

workplace injuries and helps workers by helping them stay safe or aid their recovery from workplace injuries.”

Through two streams of funding – workplace innovation and scientific research – the program will continue to uphold the highest standards of merit-based evaluation of grant applications, including peer review of scientific research, diligent project monitoring and relevance to covered workers and employers. Projects should be limited to two years or less in duration, and require funding of \$100,000 or less each year. WCB-covered employers who meet RWIP criteria may be eligible for workplace innovation funding.

The new program will issue its first call for proposals in May 2009. For more information, call Bruce Cielen at 954-4650 or visit the WCB website at http://www.wcb.mb.ca/about_wcb/community_initiatives.html.

Free Sharing Circles to Enhance Workplace Safety

The MFL Occupational Health Centre, Inc. (MFLOHC) is offering free “Building Cultural Bridges” Sharing Circles to rural workplaces in Manitoba to help enhance safety and health among Aboriginal workers.

Funded by the WCB’s Community Initiatives and Research Program, the purpose of the project is to create a bridge between Aboriginal culture and workplace health and safety committees. It seeks to better engage Aboriginal workers with non-Aboriginal workers when dealing with workplace health and safety issues.

Priority will be given to rural workplaces with both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal employees. Workplaces will ideally have an established workplace safety and health committee, but those with small workplaces with an elected representative will also be considered.

Participating in the project will benefit your workplace by:

- Minimizing the risk of a workplace injury by building a strong worker participation strategy
- Creating a positive work environment conducive to team spirit
- Identifying and resolving concerns before they escalate
- Building safety into your organizational culture, which increases worker productivity, retention of workers, and staff morale.

If you’re interested in participating, please contact Janice Greene at 926-7907, toll free 1-888-843-1229 or by e-mail at aweop@mflohc.mb.ca.

Interjurisdictional Trucking Alternative Assessment Procedure

Effective January 1, 2009, the Saskatchewan WCB is participating in the Alternative Assessment Program for Interjurisdictional Trucking. If you are already involved in this program, you will now only report Saskatchewan workers/residents earnings to the Saskatchewan WCB.

If you would like additional information about the Alternative Assessment Procedure, please refer to the fact sheet that can be found at www.wcb.mb.ca under Publications/Fact Sheets.

April 28 a Day to Remember Lost Lives

On April 28, countries around the world will take a moment to remember those who have suffered work-related injuries, illnesses and fatalities with a Day of Mourning.

The number of injuries and fatalities that occur in the workplace every year is higher than most people would imagine. In 2008, over 800 workers died from a workplace injury or illness in Canada.

The Day of Mourning serves as a reminder to employers everywhere to do everything possible to make their workplaces safe and healthy.

This is the eighteenth year Canada has recognized April 28 as the annual Day of Mourning for workers killed or injured on the job. The date was chosen because the first comprehensive Workers Compensation Act in Canada was given third reading by the Ontario Legislature on April 28, 1914.

The WCB is committed to reaching its goal of reducing workplace injuries by providing access to information and educating employers and workers on workplace safety.

The WCB will recognize the Day of Mourning on April 28 by lowering its flag to half-mast and observing a moment of silence.

Why Is Safety Important to You?

What makes safety a priority in your organization? What roles do senior leaders play in cultivating a safe workplace? Senior leaders are invited to participate in a research project that aims to answer those questions, and provide a tool for workplaces to understand their safety culture and create strategies to improve their safety performance.

How your firm can help

Firms will be asked to identify three to five senior leaders in their organization, typically owners, CEOs and GMs. These senior leaders will be asked to complete a 15-minute online survey which considers the factors that shape safety as a priority.

Firms will also be asked to conduct safety climate surveys with employees. Their participation will help researchers measure the perception that the employees have of their firm's priority on safety.

By comparing the results of these two surveys, researchers expect to gain further understanding of:

- the forces that facilitate and inhibit safety
- how safety messages flow from senior leaders to other strategic leaders.

Benefits for your firm

In addition to the knowledge gained, if you and your firm choose to participate, you will receive:

- A report that outlines the survey results of **all** of the participants (i.e. you and your firm will not be isolated from the larger sample).
- An invitation to a University of Manitoba workshop on safety climate and the role of strategic leaders. At that time, the preliminary results of the project will be shared and participants will be invited to explore if and how this information might assist firms in advancing injury and illness prevention. No personal or firm level identifiers will be released either during the workshop or in the report.

Participation is completely voluntary and you may withdraw at any time. This project is funded by the WCB of Manitoba; however, the WCB will not be made aware of your choice to participate or not.

Firms in the construction and manufacturing sectors are especially encouraged to participate, although survey results will benefit a broad audience.

To take advantage of this opportunity, please contact:

Gordon Tate
Senior Research Associate
Dalhousie University
Manitoba project line: 204-480-8535
gord.tate@dal.ca

Dates to Remember



February 28, 2009 – Annual Workers' Earnings Reports (AWER) were due. If you have not already done so, please submit your completed AWER. A five percent late filing penalty applies to firms that submit their AWER between March 1 and April 30.

April 20, 2009 – The Quarterly Remittance for the first quarter of 2009 and payment must be received at the WCB by this date for firms reporting on a quarterly basis.

April 30, 2009 – Firms who have not submitted their completed AWER prior to this date may be arbitrarily assessed and the late filing penalty may increase to 10 percent. Voluntarily registered firms that have not submitted their AWER may have their coverage cancelled.



SAFE Roads Campaign Gains Momentum

As warmer weather approaches, that can only mean one thing in Manitoba: construction season is upon us.

For the fourth year in a row, the WCB is teaming up with its safety partners to launch their annual SAFE Roads campaign, aimed at raising awareness of the safety of road construction workers.

Initiated by the Manitoba Heavy Construction Association, SAFE Roads is a joint safety effort between six partners: the City of Winnipeg, Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation, Manitoba Heavy Construction Association, Manitoba Floodway Authority, Manitoba Hydro and the WCB.

This year, additional partners have joined the safety initiative, including Manitoba Public Insurance, the Construction Safety Association of Manitoba, Winnipeg Fire & Paramedics Service, Manitoba Government Employees Union, ACS Public Sector Solutions and the City of Brandon Police Service.

“The growing momentum of the campaign speaks volumes about the importance of this initiative,” says Chris Lorenc, SAFE Roads Chair and President of the Manitoba Heavy Construction Association. “These partners are investing in our community and our workers, and are driving home the message that all injuries are preventable.”

As part of the SAFE Roads campaign, messages targeted at motorists will be asking them to slow down and exercise caution when driving past construction projects, whether they involve road repairs, utility work or emergency response vehicles.

“Soon you’ll be seeing radio, billboard and transit bus ads urging motorists to simply slow down when driving through construction zones,” says Warren Preece, WCB Director of Communications. “This initiative is building on our SAFE Work brand, and helping us to branch out our safety message. We’re all motorists, and we all have a responsibility to make sure that road construction workers get home safely at the end of each day.”

“An open road can pose safety issues for anyone, especially when the road is your workplace and there are five thousand-pound vehicles rushing past you a few feet away,” adds Chris Lorenc. “Motorists need to take precautions and

share the road with those who are out there doing their job.”

The SAFE Roads campaign is one component of the popular SAFE Work initiative that draws attention to the need to prevent workplace injuries, illnesses and deaths.



Update is also available in a large print version.

Return undeliverable copies to:

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PM 40062754