



WCB update

June 2009

Annual Report Focuses on Weathering Financial Markets, Injury Prevention

Looking back at 2008, it was certainly a difficult year for businesses and people around the world – and the WCB was no exception. However, the WCB’s 2008 annual report, which was released earlier this year, reveals that the WCB remains fully funded and continues to make progress in workplace injury prevention.

“2008 was a challenging year on the financial front given the significant downturn in financial markets,” says WCB President and CEO Doug Sexsmith. “However, the WCB entered the year in a very healthy financial position, with strong reserves and a conservatively managed and diversified investment portfolio.”

In 2007, the Manitoba WCB had the best investment results among Canadian WCBs and is expected to remain among the top performers in the country in 2008.

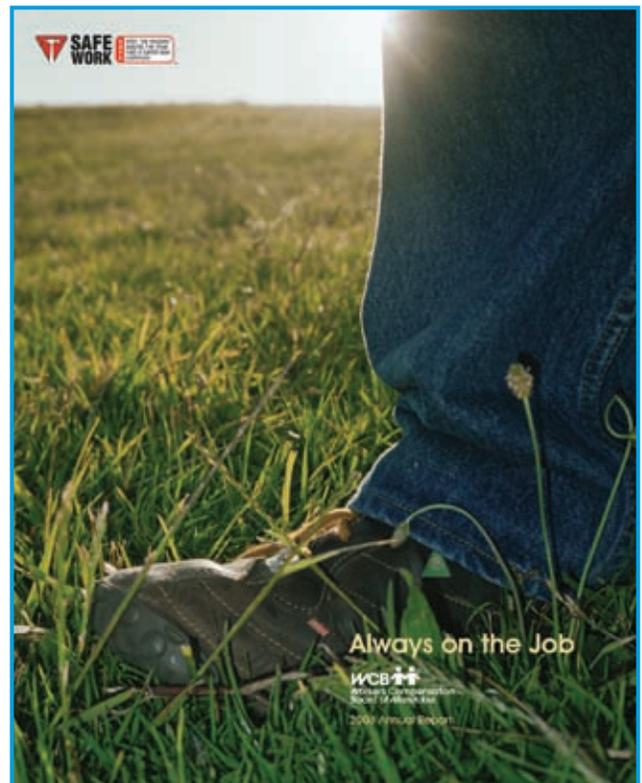
Throughout 2008, the WCB continued to promote return to work and injury prevention initiatives, including

an innovative and award-winning youth campaign. Ongoing injury prevention efforts helped to decrease the time loss injury rate to 4.1 time loss injuries per 100 workers in 2008. Although the number of injuries decreased in 2008, the cost of treating injuries rose.

As well, the Government of Manitoba announced that it was extending coverage of the compensation system effective January 1, 2009. The WCB is now providing service to more workers and employers.

“We will continue supporting employers and workers in their injury prevention and return to work efforts, working together to change the belief that workplace injuries are inevitable,” says Sexsmith.

For a complete copy of the WCB’s 2008 Annual Report and Five Year Plan, visit www.wcb.mb.ca and click on Publications > Current.



“At the heart of the WCB’s business is the goal of giving workers and employers the support they need to work safely and to return to health and work as soon as safely possible.”

- Doug Sexsmith, WCB President and CEO

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COR Accreditation Benefits Workers and Employers

It's clear that construction in Manitoba continues to be very busy, even in these trying economic times. While that's good news from a business standpoint, it also means that employers in the construction industry along with those who support them in their operations have a pressing responsibility to ensure the safety and health of the industry's workers.

With new younger workers entering the industry everyday, it's even more important now than ever to step up education and prevention efforts. That's where Certificate of Recognition Program (COR™) accreditation, the construction industry standard for creating and maintaining safe construction sites, comes into play.

COR is an occupational health and safety accreditation program that verifies a fully implemented safety and health program that meets national standards is in place. COR's objective is to provide construction industry employers with an effective safety and health management system to reduce incidents and injuries as well as their associated human and financial costs.

To achieve COR certification, a company must pass an external audit conducted by an independent auditor. Both the Manitoba Heavy Construction Safety Program and Construction Safety Association of Manitoba have the authority to grant COR certification in Manitoba.

Bob Reidy, Vice President of Taillieu Construction Limited, can attest to the importance of injury prevention and COR certification at his company. Receiving its certification in 1999, Taillieu Construction was one of the first construction companies to be COR certified. In the past five years, the company has been growing and placed even more emphasis on the lessons learned during certification.

The results have been impressive. In 2008, the company has had only one time loss injury and in the past four years or so, saw their WCB assessment rate reduced to the lowest in one of their two rate classes.

"We're saving almost \$200,000 per year in premiums, which is significant," says Reidy. "Those savings could pay for a new excavator every year."

COR is more than just finances to Taillieu Construction though.

"The goal is to minimize injuries. COR is a way to enforce and track safety," continues Reidy. "No one wants to see anyone get hurt. The savings is the cherry on top of the cake."

Reidy credits the Manitoba Heavy Construction Safety Program for support provided to the firm regarding accreditation and workplace safety.

"Instituting a COR certified safety program is a vital step for any firm that

wants to create a truly safe and healthy workplace," says Stan Kruse, Director of the Manitoba Heavy Construction Safety Program. "Training and education is the key to keeping workers safe."

The WCB also supports training and education since they are key factors in injury prevention. In January 2007, the WCB launched a three-year pilot program that offers a five per cent per year reduction in WCB assessment rates as an incentive for construction firms that earn accreditation from their safety association and maintain positive health and safety results. Since the incentive program started, over 270 firms have received certification.

"The incentive program for COR certified companies is a prime example of how safety in the workplace is good for business," says Doug Sexsmith, President and CEO of the WCB. "The construction industry, especially the Construction Safety Association of Manitoba and Manitoba Heavy Construction Safety Program, has shown its commitment to injury prevention with participation in the COR program and safety certification."

Through injury prevention training and certification, the construction industry, along with partners such as the WCB, continue toward their goal of creating injury-free workplaces.

More information on COR certification can be found at www.mhca.mb.ca or www.constructionsafety.ca.



What the Heck Were You Thinking?

On May 11, the WCB, along with their partners in government and the construction industry, launched their annual SAFE Roads campaign, which includes radio and transit bus ads featuring the frank message 'What the heck were you thinking?' The campaign is aimed at motorists, encouraging them to slow down and think of Manitoba's roads as a workplace.

Employers Assessed Annually: Review your Estimated Workers Earnings

Employers are reminded to review their 2009 estimate of workers' earnings. It is important to keep your estimate as accurate as possible. If you anticipate the estimate you provided us with at the beginning of the year could change by more than five per cent up or down at any point 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 2009.

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.

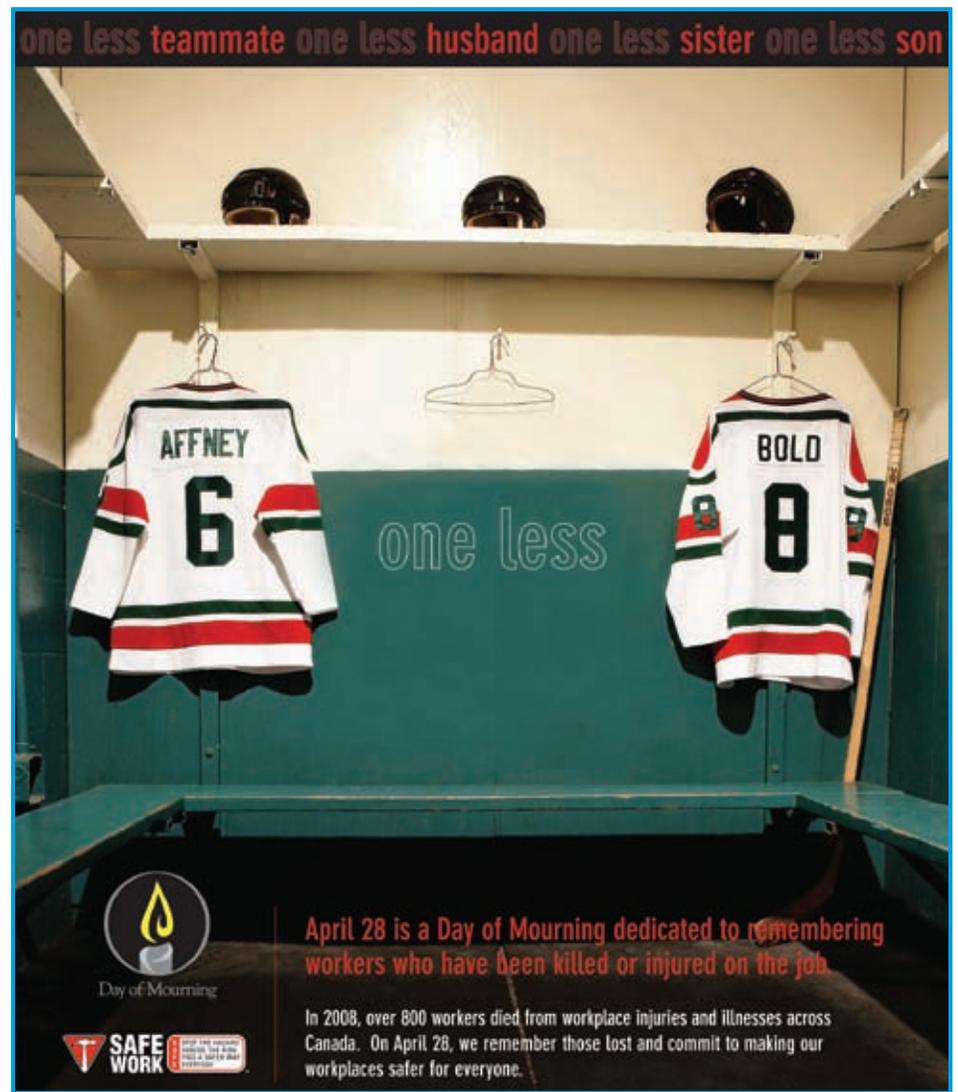
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Make WCB Payments Electronically

Did you know you can make WCB payments electronically? Even better, you can pay any time you wish using your financial institution's Internet or telephone banking options. Interested? More details are available online at www.wcb.mb.ca in the Employers section.



Day of Mourning

During the week of May 4, the WCB participated once again in North American Occupational Safety and Health (NAOSH) Week. WCB President and CEO Doug Sexsmith shared the stage with over 150 high school students at the Legislative Building at the Day of Mourning Leader's Walk. The annual walk honours workers who died or were injured on the job and raises awareness of the importance of preventing workplace injuries, illnesses and deaths.

Dates to Remember



Quarterly Firms

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

Annual Firms

August 31, 2009 – 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.



New SAFE Work Campaign Dares Youth to Assess the Risk

Hot on the heels of SAFE Manitoba's award-winning, record-setting **Spot the Hazard** campaign, the WCB, in partnership with Workplace Safety and Health, brings you **Assess the Risk** – yet another horrifying glance into the workplace injuries youth risk each and everyday.

The new campaign has launched at youth.safemanitoba.com and features tales from the SAFE Motel – a dingy, dangerous place where workplace incidents lurk around every corner for each of the motel's young workers.

After all, young employees account for 18 per cent of time loss injuries in Manitoba, with rates spiking between May and September. Most of these employees serve their first job in the service industry – and many don't realize the risks they face.

"This is just another way for us to get youth involved in injury prevention," says Warren Preece, WCB Director of Communications. "Spot the Hazard was so successful in making a true impact on the younger generation of Manitobans. We hope Assess the Risk will have an even greater impact and help save lives."

Assess the Risk invites visitors to participate in four interactive scenarios – The Broken, Blood in the Water, Two in the Hand and Left Cold – that examine the risks of common hazards young workers face on a daily basis. The webisodes are based on the top injuries that occurred among youth in 2007, which include hand injuries, ankle sprains, back injuries and head injuries.

Visitors help the characters choose the safest course of action to complete their jobs – and if the characters make it out unharmed, visitors have the chance to win one of 15 weekly draws for iPod nanos and one of two MacBooks.

"Our campaign is groundbreaking in terms of getting our SAFE Work message out there," says WCB President and CEO Doug Sexsmith. "We know that reaching out to young people requires different tactics, because they respond to messages in different ways through different mediums. The message that we're driving home is that all injuries are preventable."

“ Our Spot the Hazard campaign was so successful in making a true impact on the younger generation of Manitobans. We hope Assess the Risk will have an even greater impact and help save lives. ”

– Warren Preece, WCB Director of Communications

Update is also available in a large print version.

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