



WCB update

June 2010

Annual Report Focuses on Injury Reduction, Improved Financial Position

The WCB has released its 2009 Annual Report. It noted progress in workplace injury prevention and improved investment performance, in addition to showcasing how, when an injury occurs, the WCB supports a timely and safe return to health and meaningful work. The WCB also released its 2010-2014 Five Year Plan, included with this issue.

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. 2009 activities featured a youth campaign that focused on the second part of the SAFE Work personal risk management model: Assess the Risk. As well, last fall the WCB launched a campaign about how to prevent musculoskeletal injuries.

“Ongoing injury prevention efforts helped to decrease the time loss injury rate to an estimated 3.8 time

loss injuries per 100 workers in 2009, which was down from 4.0 in 2008,” says WCB President and CEO Doug Sexsmith. Since 2000, the time loss injury rate has decreased by 32 per cent.

The WCB’s bottom line showed total income of \$80 million, more than doubling reserves, despite a loss of \$18 million on the operating line. These results were due to strong investment growth and good cost performance.

In 2009, the WCB welcomed over 2,000 new employers and about 10,000 new workers into the compensation system. “We will continue to support all Manitoba employers and workers to change the belief that workplace injuries are inevitable,” says Sexsmith.



For a complete copy of the WCB’s 2009 Annual Report, visit www.wcb.mb.ca and click on Publications > Current.

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- Doug Sexsmith, WCB President and CEO

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WCB Markets Coverage to Healthcare Employers

For businesses in the healthcare field not requiring workers compensation coverage by legislation, the WCB has started marketing WCB Coverage – a cost-effective way for businesses to take responsibility for workplace safety and protect themselves from the effects of workplace injury and illness.

Employers who purchase coverage will enjoy the same comprehensive benefits and services as those who currently have mandatory coverage.

Here's a look at how one healthcare provider made the decision to purchase WCB Coverage:

When the co-owner of Elmwood Chiropractic Centre and his business partner realized they didn't have any measures in place to help staff who suffered injuries on the job, they looked to WCB Coverage – and didn't look any further.

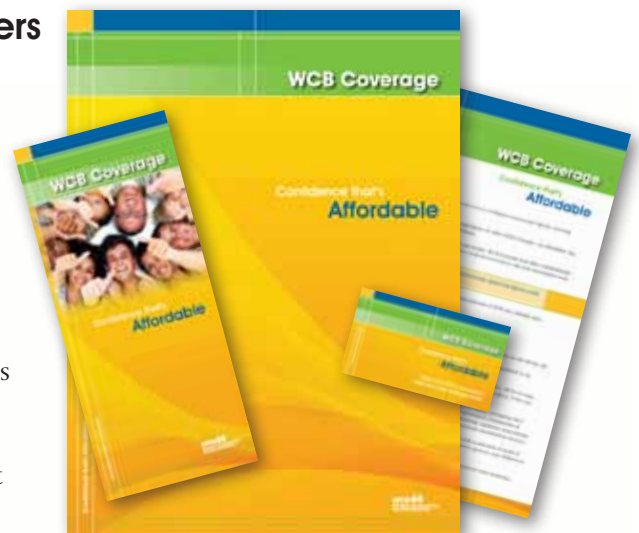
"I chose WCB Coverage because it offered what was best for our organization," says Dr. Lecker, who ran his business for nearly 20 years without a staff insurance plan before signing up for WCB Coverage two years ago. "It also allowed us to pay just a little for a lot of protection."

WCB Coverage offers Dr. Lecker and other businesses an affordable way to take responsibility for safety. WCB Coverage helps workers who are hurt or become ill as a result of their job by providing compensation for lost wages and rehabilitation services. Employers benefit by receiving protection from lawsuit, injury prevention support and return to work program assistance.

WCB Coverage also provides companies with easy-to-renew coverage and no fault insurance that's cost-effective.

Dr. Lecker hasn't had to use his WCB Coverage – his small staff practice SAFE Work procedures – but says he feels much more at ease since purchasing the coverage.

"We haven't had any claims yet," Dr. Lecker says with a laugh. "I always think the best insurance is getting the best insurance because you never have to do anything with it. It just gives a little peace of mind."



Call the WCB's Assessment Services team at (204) 954-4505 or toll-free at 1-800-362-3340, extension 4505 to find out more.

What the Heck Were You Thinking?

The fifth annual SAFE Roads campaign, a joint initiative between the WCB and their partners in government and the construction industry, kicked off in May. The campaign is targeted at motorists across the province, reminding them to slow down when driving past road construction projects and when

sharing the road with emergency workers such as firefighters, paramedics and police officers.

The campaign includes radio and transit bus ads that feature the message 'What the heck were you thinking?' to raise awareness of Manitoba's roads as a workplace.



Employers Assessed Annually: Review Your Estimated Workers' Earnings

Employers are reminded to review their 2010 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 2010.

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.

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



Complete the WCB's Website Survey

Help the WCB make our website more useful to you! Visit www.wcb.mb.ca today to fill out a short survey.

Your opinion counts!

WCB Funds Research to Reduce Work-Related Injuries and Disease

In its ongoing efforts to make workplaces safer, the WCB has announced the latest funding recipients of its Research and Workplace Innovation Program (RWIP). The RWIP makes available \$1 million each year to fund high quality scientific research and programs that develop, implement or evaluate innovative, practical solutions for improving workplace health and safety.

"The WCB helps its partners in the community to create innovative projects that reduce workplace injuries and help injured workers recover," says WCB President and CEO Doug Sexsmith. "The projects supported through the program contribute to a strong culture of safety in Manitoba."

The four groups that received funding will conduct projects on:

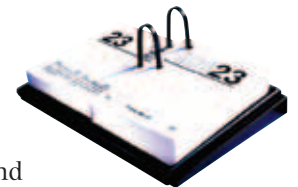
- Providing occupational health and safety services to farmers and farm workers
- Helping employers determine the cost-effectiveness of prevention initiatives



- Analyzing the factors impacting recovery from musculoskeletal injuries
- Examining the proper assessment and treatment of low back pain.

Through two streams of funding – scientific research and workplace innovation – the RWIP will continue to uphold the highest standards of merit-based evaluation of grant applications through peer review of scientific research, diligent project monitoring and ensuring relevance to covered workers and employers.

Dates to Remember



Quarterly Firms

July 20, 2010 – The Quarterly Remittance for the second quarter of 2010 and payment must be received at the WCB by this date for firms reporting on a quarterly basis.

Annual Firms

August 31, 2010 – 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.



Tie One On This Summer

Summer is prime time for roofing projects for both homeowners and construction firms. Many roofers around Manitoba are using fall protection to help prevent injury – but many are not.

In fact, more than two Manitobans die falling from heights each year.

Falls happen quickly and can surprise people who have worked at heights for years. Most fall injuries occur when people become comfortable with heights and at the same time, become complacent with safety procedures.

Manitoba's Workplace Safety and Health Act requires roofers – whether they are working on commercial or residential jobsites – to use fall protection systems to prevent fall-related injuries and fatalities.

The WCB's latest SAFE Work campaign – Tie One On – reminds roofers of the importance of these systems, and points everyone to the appropriate guidelines and resources meant to raise awareness, provide information and help prevent falls from heights.

Always remember these guidelines when working at heights:

- Workers require fall protection when working at any height greater than three metres (10 feet) or less than three metres if working near a dangerous area



The WCB's latest SAFE Work campaign reminds those working on roofs of the importance of fall protection systems to help prevent injury.

- Workers must be trained and follow SAFE Work procedures
- Cover surface openings securely and label covers
- If working in a body harness, ensure the equipment fits properly and is in good condition
- Never stand or walk on the top plate of a wall without fall protection.

For new construction: Full fall protection systems are required on all roof work – which includes guardrails, travel restraints, fall arrest or safety nets.

For existing residential roof work: Guardrails or roof jacks and toe boards are required for a roof pitch between 4:12 and 6:12. Full fall protection systems are required for a roof pitch greater than 6:12.

For more information, visit **www.safemanitoba.com** and click on Campaigns > Tie One On. You can also contact the Construction Safety Association of Manitoba at (204) 775-3171 or Workplace Safety and Health at (204) 945-3446.

Remember: SAFE Work is everyone's responsibility

Update is also available in a large print version.

Return undeliverable copies to:

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