

## **Jurisdictional Highlights Report**

### **AWCBC Prevention Committee Meeting May 2017**

This report reflects Yukon Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) activities from January 1 through December 31, 2016, with some brief highlights pertaining to Yukon Worker's Compensation Health and Safety Board (YWCHSB) as a whole, and further areas of interest for the initial part of 2017.

#### **1. Legislation:**

- Nothing to mention

#### **2. Regulations:**

- Nothing to mention

#### **3. Program Development:**

- OHS continue to refine the process to ensure consistency of the Focused Audit program that identifies employers who may benefit from an OHS review of their safety management system.

The reason a company is chosen could be reactive or proactive, but will always be with the intention to influence a company's health and safety performance to improve. For example:

- Companies identified by the YWCHSB as approaching the requirements for Super Assessment may have their HSMS audited.
  - As a 2-year follow-up post fatality, a Focused Audit may be performed to confirm the employer has implemented necessary and sustaining improvements to their HSMS.
  - In response to a serious accident or serious injury, a Focused audit may be performed if there is reason to believe the company may not have done a proper or thorough internal investigation, or to verify they have implemented necessary and sustaining improvements to their HSMS.
  - Where a significant trend of poor health and safety performance has been identified a Focused Audit may be performed as a proactive measure.
- Focused inspections were conducted in January and February of 2016 and the following sectors were visited: hotels, manufacturing and wholesale, retail, restaurants and bulk oil industries. In total 59 inspections were carried out, 885 orders were written including 17 stop work orders. Prior to the campaign taking place, we identified where best to focus our resources by analysing the statistical YWCHSB data to determine which employer groups to assist. From this we inspected a cross section of that industry looking at the companies with the most injuries to those having none. We found that the orders written were most prevalent in the following areas across the entire representative sample of industry groups inspected: policies and procedures relating to safety programs, joint health and safety committees, first aid, ladder safety, and workplace design were present in both the high and the low injury businesses.
  - The evaluation of our health and safety association (HSA), Northern Safety Network Yukon (NSNY), was completed in November 2016 and the findings were presented to the YWCHS board in Q1 of 2017. The evaluation has now been posted on our website for public viewing.

#### 4. OSH Promotion:

- In the Yukon we have an aging building infrastructure which contains an abundance of asbestos containing materials (ACM). Renovations and demolitions are increasing which in turn is presenting potential asbestos related exposures to workers. In March 2016 the YWCHSB in conjunction with Yukon Government Highways and Public Works hosted a Workplace Solutions Workshop presented by Occupational Health and Environmental specialists from Tetra Tech EBA. The main focus was to address the issues of the health effects of asbestos exposure where you would find ACM both in the home and the workplace, and hazard assessment and control processes/ procedures relating to the material.
- During NAOSH week in May of 2016 YWCHSB OHS partnered with industry and safety groups to provide the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Safety BBQ with displays and events for all Yukon workers. The message in 2016 was “making safety a habit in all our workplaces and at home”. The event was well attended, 750-800 participants and we continue to strategize and plan for improvements.

In 2017 similar attendance was achieved at the 3rd Annual Safety BBQ, there were more event and display participants; an evaluation and analysis of the event is ongoing to ensure continued participation and success in the annual event.

- As Canada is about to legalize recreational marijuana, YWCHSB hosted a presentation for our employers in February 2017 as part of our work place solutions series to discuss what will increased access to this drug mean for workplace safety?. Dr. Charl Els, a psychiatrist, addiction specialist, associate clinical professor, author and advisor on medical marijuana to Canada’s Minister of Veterans Affairs presented and facilitated the discussion.

#### 5. Statistics:

- YWCHSB year at a glance statistics – see attached 2016 Annual Report, page 2.
- All industry groups benefited from lower assessment rates in 2016. The estimated average rate dropped to \$1.85 in 2016, from \$1.90 in 2015.
- In December 2016 the YWCHSB distributed \$9.6 million of its surplus reserves to employers in the form of a rebate. This helped reduce the Compensation Fund’s surplus position to 150 percent at the end of 2016, down from 155 percent a year before.
- In 2016 Occupational Health and Safety Officers fined a total of thirty-two companies (\$17,250), seven supervisors (\$5,750) and one worker (\$150) for safety infractions across the territory.

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Inspections	251	253	329	290	311
Orders Issued	1175	1224	1717	1268	2374 *
Administrative Penalties #	40	20	37	52	40
Administrative Penalties \$	\$38,000	\$21,430	\$30,070	\$80,280	23,150
Prosecutions Initiated	3	0	0	0	0
Convictions	2	0	1	0	0
Fatalities	2	3	5	0	3

## 6. Education:

- The YWCHSB has made the orientation, training and supervision of young and new workers a priority because they are at greater risk of injury than more experienced workers.
- YWCHSB delivers a variety of programs, materials and courses to foster healthy and safe behaviours in young and new workers. Two safety management consultants carry out this important work in Yukon schools, evening classes, and at conferences and other gatherings. In 2016, they visited 23 Yukon elementary and secondary schools, interacting with more than 1,600 students. They also worked with students in the trades programs at Yukon College and the Women in Trades program.
- During 2016, the Safety Build program was introduced into elementary schools. Participating students used LEGO®, personal experiences and their imaginations to build models and tell stories about what they do to keep safe at school, at home and around communities. This engaging, adaptable and hands-on activity allowed students to interact with their peers, use a variety of skills, and show what they do on a daily basis to build safety into their lives. Students described how making safe choices prevents injury, may have long-term consequences, and is the responsible thing to do.
- A new Safety Online course was also launched in 2016 which was targeted at students in grades 5 to 10 and their parents. The course looked at decision-making and vulnerabilities related to cyber-bullying and other online risks. Students were taught how to recognize and avoid online hazards. Safety Online was created by the YWCHSB and has been delivered to date to students and parents in Whitehorse, Haines Junction, Carcross, Dawson City, Faro and Old Crow.
- Curriculum and lesson plans are available free to teachers in classes from Kindergarten to Grade 5. A curriculum guide was completed for grades 6 and 7 that explores the influences and dilemmas related to health and safety decision-making. It will officially launch in 2017.
- YWCHSB continues to deliver the popular “Work Shouldn’t Hurt” course to Planning 10 classes in Yukon secondary schools and at the Yukon College. The course explains why young people are at a greater risk of injury at work and trains students to recognize common workplace hazards. In 2016 Work Shouldn’t Hurt was delivered in Old Crow for the first time. It was requested by and taught to Champagne and Aishihik First Nations staff, and four sessions were delivered to students in the Yukon Tourism Education Council’s Ready to Work program, with foreign workers making up most of the participants.
- YWCHSB also participated in many public events during 2016. At the Yukon Geoscience Forum & Trade Show, an interactive display allowed participants to explore hearing prevention and demonstrated how common household and workplace items can lead to hearing loss. YWCHSB also took part in the Career and Volunteer Expo in Whitehorse, the Yukon Teachers’ Association annual conference, and the Health & Safety Fair in Haines Junction.
- In partnership with Skills Yukon, the YWCHSB sponsored a youth video contest. Entrants incorporated the phrase, “What happened then?” into short videos about health and safety. Sixteen entries were received from Yukon high school students. Winners received cash prizes for themselves and their schools. Students from the Wood Street Centre took first prize with their video, *Flying or Falling*, and went on to represent Team Yukon at the Skills Canada National Competition in Moncton, New Brunswick, in June 2016.

- In 2016 storytelling was core to our major social marketing campaign, “Safety IQ.” This innovative initiative fostered a conversation to bridge the gap between young and new workers and their counterparts in the workplace who are older or more experienced. Safety IQ featured full-page comics depicting real-life stories of workplace incidents. They were published through social media such as Snapchat, Facebook and Instagram and in traditional media such as newspapers. A simple game inspired readers to collect clues from across the platforms and engage in an online dialogue that explored the safety issues presented in the comics. The campaign was a huge success, reaching over 18,000 people.

## **7. Studies and Research:**

- No new studies or research.

## **8. Technological Changes:**

- OHS deployed an In Reach emergency communications system in late 2016 to give an additional emergency communication option to our Safety Officers who work and travel to remote workplaces.
- In 2016 YWCHSB adapted its OHS regulations from a physical print format to an electronic format that automatically optimizes its display for the device a person is using. Search functionality was also improved to make information more accessible and useful. Employers, supervisors and workers have found this to be most useful at their worksite locations.

## **9. Future Initiatives:**

- A commitment within the new governments’ platform is to amend the Yukon Workers' Compensation Act to include presumptive provisions for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in first responders.