



News release

Minister announces continuation of joint Nunavut/NWT Workers' Compensation Board

IQALUIT, Nunavut (February 5, 2001) – Minister Responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board Kelvin Ng announces the Government of Nunavut will continue to share the Board with the Government of the Northwest Territories.

The Government of Nunavut expects this arrangement to continue until December 31, 2003 when a final decision on the future of the Board will be determined.

“The joint WCB has served both employers and employees extremely well since April 1, 1999 when the agreement came into effect,” Minister Ng said. “Employers in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories enjoy some of the lowest assessment rates in North America. At the same time, benefits for employees are the most generous in all of Canada.”

The Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) operates separately from government. The Board of Directors oversees the functions of the WCB and is appointed by the Nunavut and NWT Ministers responsible for it. The WCB is a public agency, which acts at arms length from the government and receives all its operating funds from Nunavut and NWT employers.

The Government of Nunavut was bound by the *Intergovernmental Agreement on a Shared WCB* to inform the Government of the Northwest Territories prior to December 31, 2000 of its intent to either continue the shared arrangement or split the board. Stakeholders across Nunavut were consulted and an actuarial study was undertaken to determine the costs associated with establishing a separate WCB. Both the stakeholder consultation and the actuarial study were in favor of continuing a shared agreement.

Minister Ng also announces the recent appointment of Alain Carrière of Iqaluit, who will serve as a public interest representative on the Board. He will join Alex Stuit of Kugluktuk who has served on the Board since April 2000.

“I am pleased that Mr. Carrière agreed to put his time, energy and experience to use in serving on the Board,” Minister Ng said. “He will join a capable group of individuals who are determined to ensure that Nunavut employers and employees continue to receive exemplary service from the WCB.”

Many other Nunavummiut serve in various capacities on the Board. They include: Metro Solomon of Rankin Inlet, Bill Lyall of Cambridge Bay and Pauloosie Kilabuk of Iqaluit, who serve on the Appeals Tribunal. Shona Barkley of Iqaluit and David Simailak of Baker Lake join Mr. Stuit on the Legislative Review panel.

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