

Safety Sound-off

VIDC Occupational Health & Safety Committee Newsletter

Statistics - 2015 - fatalities, injuries, diseases - WorkSafeBC

BC 2015:

- ◆ Fatalities: 187 though there are three different sets of reported numbers from the BC Fed, WorkSafeBC, other
- ◆ 122 claims were accepted for fatality death benefits. This compares to 128 accepted in 2013; 149 in 2012; 142 in 2011; 143 in 2010 and 121 in 2009
- ◆ Of the 122 accepted work-related fatalities in 2015, 72 (59%) were v the result of occupational diseases, most related to exposure to asbestos (48 workers)
- ◆ 102,707 claims were accepted for short-term disability, long-term disability, and health care only claims (so there is a 8 to 9% denial rate)
- ◆ The published Industrial Diseases and Injuries final tally for 2015 is not out yet – they are always one year behind!

CAUTION: there are several studies out showing that 30% to 40% (minimum – some say it is 50%) of injuries are not reported to WCB. The number of fatalities reported to WCB due to occupational diseases such as asbestos is also likely actually much, much higher as the family may not be aware of work history, right to file, etc. Citations available upon request. Another confound to the data sets is that there are over 14,000 appeals per year. This might explain, in part, the 1 year delay in data reporting – however – the appeals process usually takes more than 2 years and this does not even include the small number of judicial reviews, referrals back for new decisions, etc. So, the data from BC – and likely most provinces – is not reliable

Tom McKenna
National Health & Safety Representative and WCB Advocacy



KEEP CALM AND GO TO THE NEXT UNION MEETING

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Health & Safety

Dates to remember:

- ◆ **November 23 - 25, 2016:** VIDC Stewards Conference

The 2016 VIDC Stewards conference promises to be a great educational event featuring excellent speakers, great topics and CUPE Education offering a variety of health and safety sessions including the new Health and Safety Learning Series.



Don't Miss

- ◆ **November 26, 2016:** Annual VIDC Social
- ◆ **January 2017:** Joseph Mairs Memorial
- ◆ **February 22, 2017:** Stop Bullying Day
- ◆ **April 28, 2017:** Day of Mourning



Every worker must take reasonable care to protect the worker's health and safety and the health and safety of other persons who may be affected by the worker's acts or omissions at work.



PAWSOME INSIGHTS PUPS AND THEIR RIDES



Dogs Love Cars: (According to dog owners)



52% of dog owners take their dogs on car trips at least once per week



2 in 5 owners have road tripped more than 100 miles with their pups

77% of dog owners say their dogs enjoy car rides



24% of dog owners have used their dog to flirt with another person while in the car

Unleashed: Riding in Cars with Dogs



2 out of 3 dog owners allow their dogs to ride in the car unleashed



Dogs are nearly **5x** more likely to end up in a driver's lap than the drivers would like



Only **45%** of dog owners are aware of pet safety laws on the road

Tips for Keeping Fido Safe in the Car:



SECURE YOUR DOG

Medium/large dogs should be secured with a harness or restraint. Small dogs should ride in a secured pet carrier



BRING SUPPLIES

Keep Fido comfortable by bringing along any pet medications, food and water, towels or blankets, and plastic bags



DON'T LEAVE A DOG IN A HOT CAR.

Never leave your pet inside a parked car when it is warm outside, not even with the windows down

Car Shopping: Doggy Edition



25% of dog owners have changed the body style of their car because they got a dog



66% of dog owners think about their dog's needs at least a little when car shopping



The **most popular** pet-friendly features dog owners want in their next car are:

- Easy clean fabric
- All-weather floor mats
- Pet-friendly seat belts or restraints

Autotrader's experts made their picks for 5 Great Cars for Dog Lovers



2017 Chrysler Pacifica



2016 Nissan Pathfinder



2016 Toyota 4Runner



2016 Volkswagen Tiguan



2017 Volvo XC90

Brief History of WCB (Compensation) in BC:

- ◆ BC's first *Workmen's Compensation Act* ("WC Act") was created by two progressive Members of the BC Legislative Assembly (MLAs) in 1902.
- ◆ A tripartite Select Committee was formed in 1915. Avar B. Pineo was appointed as the Chair of the committee and James H. McVety, BC Federation of Labour Chairman, was appointed as the labour representative. The committee's recommendations, including a no-fault compensation system and an "accident prevention" scheme all under the same administration, lead to the birth of our modern day workers' compensation system.
- ◆ The reformed *WC Act*, came into effect on January 1, 1917.
- ◆ BC's WC system was based largely on the principles of Sir William Meredith when developing Ontario's system in 1913. Meredith insisted that the system was not an employers' insurance system, but rather that "the very basis of this legislation is that it is social, there is no use disguising the fact. One of the main objects of it is to prevent injured employees and their dependents being made a burden upon the public."
- ◆ In the early 1990s, the New Democratic Party (NDP) government conducted a number of long overdue reviews and commissions of the system – both prevention and compensation – which resulted in progressive changes to the system. This included a tripartite review of the governance structure which led to a Board of Directors composed largely by an equal number of employer and labour representatives.
- ◆ 1999 Royal Commission. The Final Report of the Royal Commission on Workers' Compensation was released on January 20, 1999, wherein the topic of "Governance and Accountability in the Workers' Compensation System" was considered.
- ◆ In 2002 the BC Liberal government made major changes to the system following two core services reviews (called the Winter Report). Bills 49 and 63 occurred in 2002 and 2003. In total, the changes since 2002, including dozens of Policy and Regulation reviews, include:
 - ◆ change from 75% of gross earnings to 90% of net earnings, resulting in a reduction of benefits by 13 percent;
 - ◆ the effective elimination of pensions based on the actual long-term loss of earnings of injured workers;
 - ◆ the effective elimination of vocational rehabilitation assistance that helps injured workers return to the work force;
 - ◆ appeal processes have become increasingly technical, difficult to understand and inaccessible to injured workers;
 - ◆ functional pensions are now payable only to age 65 rather than payable for life;
 - ◆ concentration of power in the Board of Directors, including delegation of power to enact binding policy
 - ◆ the reduction of Consumer Price Index ("CPI") to the rate of CPI increases *less one percent* and to a cap of four percent in any year, and calculated only once yearly rather than twice;
 - ◆ restrictions on the manner of determining a worker's wage rate, primarily to earnings in 12 months prior to injury instead of a flexible or discretionary method;
 - ◆ wage rate determinations early in a claim, leaving errors that can't be corrected and are applied later to pensions;
 - ◆ significant new restrictions on compensation for verified psychological injuries;
 - ◆ restrictions on compensation for permanent chronic pain and similar conditions;
 - ◆ inadequacy of functional pensions as they are based on an outdated Permanent Disability Evaluation Schedule ("PDES") and no review of the PDES schedule has been undertaken; and
 - ◆ restriction of the Board's remedial jurisdiction i.e., no ability to review and re-adjudicate prior decisions even if erroneous or to reopen claims where changed circumstances.



Welcome to our VIDC Health and Safety Newsletter.

Our Committee members are:
Sarah Fairbrass, Chair;
Martha Higgins; Bill Newman,
Sherrene Ross.

www.vidc.cupe.ca



What's Wong with this Picture?

There are some things seriously wrong with this picture!! See if you can spot the issues and send them by May 14,2016 to: vpcupc374@gmail.com to have your name entered to win a prize. The lucky winner will be announced at the May 28, 2016 VIDC meeting and list of issues will be published in the next newsletter along with the next photo!



Last Issue`s Winner: Laura Johnson

For one the heater is in the pathway for anyone entering the door, and for herself personally is her bad body placement of leg over knee , twisting her body not having the ability for good body mechanical movement or a proper ergonomical work station. Not being able to see the screen straight on rather than sideways will cause various problems with the eyes and back, neck etc. You could say she is playing a negative role in future body pain and loss of work because of poor workplace ergonomic practise. The maintaining good health as well as safety is just as important especially when it can be prevented.

The prize this month is sponsored by the VIDC OH&S Committee!