
News Release



Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Commission of New Brunswick

For Immediate Release

2008/06/04

Media Contact: Mary Tucker,
Manager of Communications
Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Commission
Telephone: 506 632-2828 or 1 800 222-9775

Saint John, NB: The Report of the Independent Review Panel on the Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation System, released today by Ed Doherty, Minister of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour, will be very useful to the Commission as it sets its priorities for the coming years, said Roberta Dugas, chair of the WHSCC.

Dugas noted that the report confirms the important role that the stakeholder board members play in administering the system of workers' compensation and occupational health and safety. "The board is pleased with the emphasis on health and safety and prevention, an area where we have been focusing our responsibilities. We appreciate that the Independent Review Panel has reinforced that the WHSCC should be devoting more resources to health and safety and injury prevention, an action we are committed to undertaking," she said. "We also fully support their recommendation that occupational health and safety be an integral part of New Brunswick's school curriculum. We will continue to work closely with the Department of Education to ensure this happens."

Other important recommendations are those that relate to the board undertaking a more systematic approach to stakeholder consultation. Dugas said there are a number of important issues that the Review Panel has referred back to the WHSCC board, and that the board is prepared to consult on these issues and report back to the government. "The report's title, 'Strengthening the System', reflects the very positive nature of the recommendations that the Review Panel has made."

Dugas congratulated the minister on the quality of his panel selection, and applauded the panel on their expertise. "The government, through the Independent Review Panel's report, has provided the WHSCC with an important set of recommendations that will serve to guide us well into the future," she said.

ABOUT THE WHSCC

The WHSCC administers no-fault workplace accident and disability insurance for employers and their workers, funded solely through employer assessments. The WHSCC is committed to preventing workplace injuries and accidents through education and the enforcement of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*.