



GOOD NEWS: Trucker takes new road

It was a vision of his yet unborn baby that brought Mario Doiron out of semi-consciousness after a 7 ½-ton-rated hook smashed through the cab of the truck he was driving, and fractured his skull. The accident occurred on February 3, 2005, when Doiron was transferring a roll-off waste container from a flat bed onto the bed of his roll-off truck.

"I could see my wife Crystal holding a baby. That's when I woke up," Doiron said. (Crystal Doiron was three months pregnant at the time, expecting their first child.) Even then, Doiron wasn't aware of what had happened. "At first I thought I was having an aneurysm. It was really cold in the truck, and I could feel the wind. That's when I noticed the broken glass and the blood," he said.

In addition to the skull fracture and facial injuries, the accident resulted in impaired mobility on the left side of Doiron's body.

After a one-week hospital stay, Doiron began three months of physical rehabilitation in the Miramichi, where he lives, with limited success. "I was in bad shape, and walking with a cane. I was having awful dizzy spells," he said. So he was sent to the WHSCC's Workers Rehabilitation Centre in Grand Bay-Westfield, where he spent 13½ weeks in a work recovery program, with a traumatic brain injury multidisciplinary team.

"They (staff at WRC) helped me get my strength and control back in my arm and leg, although there was nothing they could do about my dizziness."

After returning from the WRC, Doiron tried to return to driving truck as part of a desensitization and gradual return-to-work program. "Driving trucks is something I always wanted to do. I enjoyed being on the road; it was almost like being my own boss," he said. But his truck driving days were over. "I tried driving a few times, but my head just didn't feel right. I would come to a stop sign, and it seemed to be jiggling."



Mario Doiron

As his employer was unable to accommodate his condition, Doiron and his case management team looked at alternate employment. He indicated an interest in plumbing, but because of problems with his balance, he couldn't get up on ladders. Automotive mechanics was his second option. Doiron enrolled in the one-year automotive service technician program at the New Brunswick Community College's Bathurst campus, and graduated with honours – an 89.2 average.

"Mario was the model client. He participated actively with his physical rehabilitation plan and continued to do so through to its successful completion. He is the one who really made it happen!" said his case manager, Maurice St-Pierre. "He was left with some work restrictions but those were much less severe than one would have expected at the beginning of this claim, once again mainly because of his high level of participation in rehab," St-Pierre said.

What motivated him to persevere through the rehab, going back to school and the physical pain and uncertainty of future employment was

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No Mercy Campaign Garners Award

The WHSCC's No Mercy campaign won third place in the External Communications Campaign category of the American Association of State Compensation Insurance Funds (AASCIF) Communications Awards, presented in Big Sky, Montana in August. The No Mercy campaign was one of 143 entries.

The AASCIF Communications Awards are presented annually to member funds and boards from across Canada and the United States that have addressed communications issues with professional skill, creativity, and resourcefulness. They are judged by a panel of independent media experts.

"We're thrilled that our No Mercy campaign was recognized by AASCIF, the workers' compensation industry's premier professional association," said Perley Brewer, WHSCC's manager of client consulting and education services. "And while we're very pleased with this honour, the real reward will be recognition of the campaign by our youth. If it resonates with them, grabs their attention and makes them think about working safely, then we will have done what we set out to do. That is really all the recognition we need," Brewer said.

"While no injuries are acceptable, the loss of

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IMPORTANT DATE:

27th
ANNUAL WHSCC
HEALTH AND SAFETY
CONFERENCE

October 14-16, 2007
Delta Brunswick Hotel, Saint John, N.B.
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life or limb is all the more unacceptable when it comes to our young workers, who are just beginning to make their way in the world," he said.

"The concept behind No Mercy is simple – the machinery and materials you work with will show no mercy if you skip steps and cut corners when it comes to safety," said Mary Tucker, WHSCC's communications manager. "And young people should take a no mercy approach to getting the training supervision and protective equipment they need to do their job safely," she said.

The No Mercy campaign was launched in March, in conjunction with the Smart Risk HEROES "Be Smart. Be Safe" tour. The WHSCC, along with the Insurance Bureau of Canada and the New Brunswick Safety Council sponsored the tour, which was viewed by close to 10,000 students. Following the show, students were shown the No Mercy video, an introduction to the WHSCC's new YouthSafe website. Other campaign components include branded give-aways, kits for teachers, and two No Mercy posters. The "cut" and "burn" posters show the aftermath of the workplace injuries depicted in the animated No Mercy videos.

To see what caught the judges' eyes, go to: www.nomercy.ca. From there you'll be directed to the YouthSafe website, at www.youthsafe.ca. •

IN THE COURTS

Maple Leaf Homes was charged under section 9(1) (a) of the *OHS Act* for failing to take reasonable precautions to ensure the health and safety of workers in relation to the safe design and use of a plumbing jig (no engineer approval). The charge was a result of an accident that occurred August 21, 2006 at their plant when a plumbing jig toppled over and struck an employee. Maple Leaf Homes pleaded guilty and was fined \$4,000, plus a victim surcharge of \$800.

At the time of the accident, Maple Leaf Homes took immediate action, conducted a thorough investigation on its own, and made required modifications to the jig. In addition, the company sent all its supervisors for additional safety training.

A lawyer for Maple Leaf Homes said the design and construction of the plumbing jig was contracted out, and Maple Leaf Homes had assumed engineering expertise would be brought to bear on the project.

John Williams, a millwright with Grand Lake Timber, pleaded guilty to a charge under section 239(5) of *General Regulation 91-191* of the *OHS Act*, and was fined \$300, plus a victim surcharge of \$60. The charges were laid after an accident in which Williams lost the tip of his right index finger.

As a millwright, part of Williams's job is to ensure that the mill's machines are properly maintained, and to prompt any necessary repairs. On September 13, Williams was behind a finger jointer when he heard the cutting heads slowing down. Without taking any of the required steps to de-energize the jointer as required by law, Williams opened the access door in the jointer to check the drive belts. (Williams did not even take the insufficient measure that may have prevented the accident by telling the jointer operator that he was going to check the belt tension.) When the cutting heads came to a stop, Williams reached into the machine to check the belt tension. While his hand was in the machine, which was unknown to the operator, the machine was powered up again and Williams's hand was pulled into the machine.

J.D. Irving Ltd., was charged under section 242(3) of *General Regulation 91-191* of the *OHS Act* for failing to install a guard on a planer saw at their sawmill in Kedgewick. The charge was laid after an accident in November 2005, in which a worker sustained serious injuries when he was struck in the face by a piece of lumber. The worker suffered what is called a LeFort I fracture, defined as a horizontal fracture occurring at the base of the upper jawbone above the highest point of the teeth.

JDI pleaded guilty and was fined \$5,000, plus a victim surcharge of \$1,000. •

Board member profile: Ron Hyson

With a background in construction and manufacturing, and more than 10 years experience in human resources and safety, Ron Hyson is sure to prove a valuable asset to the WHSCC's board of directors. Hyson is acutely aware of the distressing consequences of workplace injuries. "I have personal experience dealing with injured workers and their families," Hyson said. "Having to call a family member after a serious injury is something you hope to never have to do. It affects you physically, mentally and emotionally," he said.

That's why Hyson says he's so committed to his role as employer representative on the WHSCC's board of directors. Hyson, vice-president of human resources for Irving Tissue, was appointed to the board on February 26, and was nominated by the Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters.

He replaces Fraser MacLeod, whose term expired February 25.

"I'm proud and excited to have been asked to sit on the board, and to help work toward what I believe is the goal of all employers – zero accidents," Hyson said. "And that starts with changing the mindset of employers and workers alike. There's no such thing as an accident that's not preventable. Every time someone is injured or there's a near-miss, we must work to understand why that happened, and effect changes that will prevent a reoccurrence," he said.

Hyson is pleased with the work that's been done by the WHSCC and its board to date. "I'm pretty impressed with the governance – what the Commission and the board has achieved in

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Ron Hyson : *Continued from page 2*

terms of safety, and full funding. They've been very diligent in ensuring ongoing liabilities are covered. There's a lot to be proud of, and the people of New Brunswick are well served. But, there's always room for improvement," he said.

Hyson anticipates the results of the WHSCC review, which he believes will help identify these areas for improvement. "I think the review will be fairly positive and validate the good work that's been done. It's also a double-check to make sure we're working as effectively as possible, for all our stakeholders."

Hyson said he would like to see more done in youth education. "The Commission has made a good investment in schools. But it's an area where you can never do enough. It's important

that we reach workers at an early age. They are our future work generation, and their health and safety is critical to the growth and vibrancy of our province. It's important they understand the inherent dangers of work."

Hyson would also like to see more focus on small business, who lack the resources for internal communications that larger employers have. "We must work with the smaller businesses by supporting their internal communications, and showing them that health and safety can save them money," he said.

Although he's had experience working with compensation boards in the United States and Nova Scotia, Hyson said there's still quite a learning curve ahead of him. "Once I get over

Ron Hyson,
Employer
Representative



this learning curve, I'm really looking forward to working on the strategy behind moving the board's goals forward," he said.

Hyson works and lives in Moncton, with his wife Sarah, their 15-month-old daughter Cassidy, and their two Jack Russell terriers. When not spending time with his family on frequent trips to Fundy National Park, Hyson enjoys playing golf. •

HOT OFF THE **PRESS**:

Annual Report
Stakeholder Report
Workers' Rehabilitation Centre - Programs and Services pamphlet
JHSC guide (revised)
WHSCC Strategic Plan 2007-2012
WHSCC Workshop Calendar 2008

Hazard Alerts

Worker Fatally Injured While Repairing Equipment
Tire Explosion Causes Life-Threatening Injuries

27th Annual WHSCC Conference

Not registered for our 27th Annual Health and Safety Conference? There's still time. The conference takes place October 14-16 at the Delta Brunswick Hotel in Saint John.

This year's lineup is sure to impress. Industry experts will deliver more than 20 workshops on topics like the new JHSC legislation, the WHSCC's Zero Tolerance campaign, substance abuse, and the lessons from SARS. Enjoy the side-splitting antics of Atlantic Canadian humorist Bill Carr at our opening ceremonies, while Bob Lambert will keep you dancing in your seat at our Monday banquet. Tuesday morning is all about recognizing best practices. Our annual awards breakfast honours New Brunswick companies who have significantly improved their health and safety practices, and our plenary session focuses on building a safety culture in the workplace, with Duncan Hawthorne of Bruce Power, in Ontario.

"We're very proud to host this conference and of the excellent feedback we receive year after year from our delegates. This conference is an important aspect of our vision of healthy and

safe workplaces in New Brunswick," says Mary Tucker, conference co-chair. "We are committed to sharing with the province's employers and workers the most relevant and topical information on workplace health and safety to help us maintain this vision."

From start to finish, this is an event not to be missed. Register through our website today, and view the conference program at www.whscc.nb.ca, or by calling 1 800 222-9775, ext. 5660. •

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supporting his family, Doiron said. And it paid off. After being unemployed for two-and-a-half years, Doiron just began work as a technician at J.H. Stewart Ltd., a retailer of motorcycles, power equipment and ATVs in Miramichi.

"I want to say a big thank you to the WHSCC. They did everything they could to get me back on my feet. I don't know what I would have done without their help," Doiron said.

And by the way, that baby that Doiron saw his wife holding when he was unconscious – his name is Miguel, and he's two years old. •