



**SHEET METAL WORKERS' INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION,  
Local Union No. 8**

#204, 10544 - 106 Street  
Edmonton, Alberta T5H 2X6  
Phone: (403) 426-3375  
Toll Free: 1-800-262-9085  
Fax: (403) 426-1694

#207, 2323 - 32 Avenue N.E.  
Calgary, Alberta T2E 6Z3  
Phone: (403) 250-1060  
Fax: (403) 250-1061

NWT GOVERNMENT LIBRARY



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March 28, 1996

Members of the Legislative Assembly  
Government of the N.W.T.  
Box 1320  
Yellowknife, N.W.T.  
X1A 2L9

Dear M.L.A.'s

RE: Proposed Transfer of Occupational Health and Safety  
to W.C.B.

The Sheet Metal Workers International Association Local Union #8 is one of many groups strongly opposed to this plan and the unilateral manner in which it has been brought forward. The Minister Responsible for WCB, the Honourable John Todd, has not consulted Business and Labour.

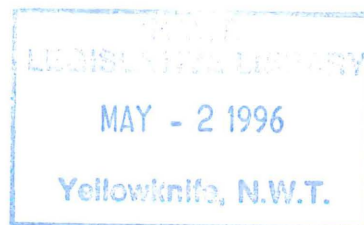
We request that the Legislative Assembly stop the transfer immediately, and direct the Minister Responsible for WCB to conduct a bi-partite, public review of the outdated 1977 Workers Compensation Act, current administration and the proposed transfer of safety functions.

The WCB is set up to act as an independent, joint labour-business institution to administer accident insurance for workers and employers. As you may be aware, the WCB has a serious long-term responsibility to manage its funds for this purpose. Simply put the WCB is an independent agency, not a government department, and the WCB's mandate does not allow the use of WCB funds for government budgetary purposes.

Thank you for your attention to the above. Again, we cannot over-emphasize the urgency of this matter, as Mr. Todd has scheduled the changes to take effect unilaterally this coming Monday.

Sincerely,

Ken MacLennan  
Business Manager





Members of the Legislative Assembly  
Government of the Northwest Territories  
P.O. Box 1320  
Yellowknife NT  
X1A 2L9

March 27, 1996

Dear Members:

We as members of the NWT construction industry are concerned with the recent announcement of the transfer of 21 government employees of the GNWT Occupational Health & Safety to the Worker's Compensation Board.

The purpose of the WCB is to provide protection for injured workers and employers. The WCB was established as a no fault insurance program and is funded by employers. The money is held in trust for injured workers and their families.

As principal stakeholders of the NWT Worker's Compensation Board, we demand that an extensive public review seeking input from the stakeholders as well as an actuarial review take place before an undertaking of this magnitude occurs. Until these conditions can be met, the members of the NWT Construction Association are opposed to the transfer of GNWT, Department of Occupational Health & Safety to the Worker's Compensation Board.

Sincerely,

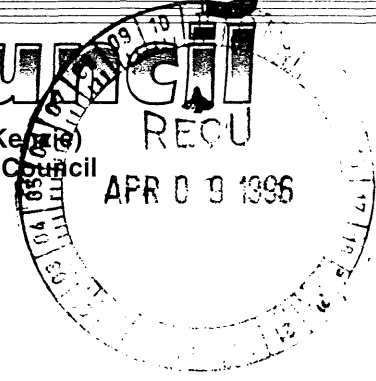
*[Handwritten Signature]*  
NWT Construction Association Member

c.c. Ministers  
c.c. all M.L.A.'s

Braden Burry  
Expediting Ltd.  
#18 Yellowknife Airport  
Yellowknife, NT  
X1A 3T2  
Tel: (403) 873-8666  
Fax: (403) 873-8285

# Alberta Building Trades Council

Alberta & N.W.T. (District of Mackenzie)  
Building and Construction Trades Council



REPRESENTING THE FOLLOWING AFFILIATES:

- BOILERMAKERS  
Lodge 146
- BRICKLAYERS  
Local 1
- BRICKLAYERS  
Local 2
- CARPENTERS  
Local 846
- CARPENTERS  
Local 1322
- CARPENTERS  
Local 1325
- CARPENTERS  
Local 1569
- CARPENTERS  
Local 2103
- CARPENTERS  
Local 2410
- CEMENT MASONS  
Local 924
- CONSTRUCTION & GENERAL WORKERS  
Local 92
- CONSTRUCTION & GENERAL WORKERS  
Local 1111
- CULINARY WORKERS  
Local 47
- ELECTRICAL WORKERS  
Local 254
- ELECTRICAL WORKERS  
Local 424
- ELEVATOR CONSTRUCTORS  
Local 122
- ELEVATOR CONSTRUCTORS  
Local 130
- INSULATORS  
Local 110
- IRON WORKERS  
Local 720
- MILLWRIGHTS  
Local 1460
- MILLWRIGHTS  
Local 1975
- OPERATING ENGINEERS  
Local 955
- PAINTERS  
Local 177
- PLASTERERS  
Local 372
- PLUMBERS & PIPEFITTERS  
Local 488
- PLUMBERS & PIPEFITTERS  
Local 496
- SHEET METAL WORKERS  
Local 8
- TEAMSTERS  
Local 362
- TILE & TERRAZZO WORKERS  
Local 4

File No. 12,828

April 2nd, 1996

**SENT VIA FAX - 1-800-661-0879**

Members of the Legislative Assembly  
Government of the Northwest Territories  
P.O. Box 1320  
Yellowknife, N.W.T. X1A 2L9

Dear Honourable Members:

***RE: Transfer of GNWT Department of Occupational Health and Safety to the Workers' Compensation Board***

I have, in hand, a letter dated March 27th, 1996 signed by such diverse groups as Chambers of Commerce and Labour Unions. Also signing are the Association of Municipalities, Chamber of Mines and Construction Association. These groups are irrevocably opposed to transferring the Government of the Northwest Territories Department of Occupational Health and Safety to the Workers' Compensation Board. We, too, on behalf of our members in the Northwest Territories are opposed to such an action. The people who are opposed to this transfer represent, in the broadest sense, all workers and all businesses in the NWT. Essentially, what "industry" is saying to you is that this is bad idea. Given what amounts to universal opposition, it would seem like folly for you to proceed in this vein.

Should you have any questions or comments regarding the foregoing please do not hesitate in contacting the writer.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly,

**ROBERT R. BLAKELY**  
President

RRB/jm

201, 11738 Kingsway Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T5G 0X5  
Telephone (403) 454-4600 Fax (403) 454-8090





Local No. 110 City Edmonton Prov. Alberta  
 Address 10576-104 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T5H 2W1  
 tel. (403)426-2874 phone fax #428-9434

April 1, 1996  
 (fax 403 873 0276 and mail)

Legislative Assembly  
 of the NWT  
 Box 1320  
 Yellowknife, NWT  
 X1A 2L9

ATTN: MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

RE: PROPOSED TRANSFER OF OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY SERVICES TO WCB

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Our Local Union represent Insulators who work in the North West Territories, and we are concerned about a recent change we are given to understand has been agreed to by your Government, involving the transfer of the NWT's Occupational Health and Safety Department to the NWT's Workers Compensation Board. Assuming this is in fact the case, we would urge you to reconsider the matter. We have two major concerns in respect to this change:

1. LACK OF ENFORCEMENT OF LEGISLATED STANDARDS AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR ENFORCEMENT

WCB is funded solely by employer contributions, and is responsible for injury management and injury compensation. There can be an emphasis on injury reduction (and should be), and it can factor in when WCB sets the assessment rates for employers to pay; but it is unconscionable to even consider making an organization funded solely by employers, to be responsible for enforcing Occupational Health and Safety Standards.

Speaking for my organization, we feel that WCB, as such, would not likely provide unbiased enforcement and shouldn't be expected to undertake that role. If funding for OHS services comes solely from employers; it is employers that OHS personnel (WCB personnel) would be accountable to - not the Government.

Enforcement would be better done by an Occupational Health and Safety Department directly associated with the Government, and directly funded by tax payer money. This would continue to make OHS Department personnel directly accountable to the Government, and provide for unbiased enforcement of Standards.

WCB/OHS CONT.....

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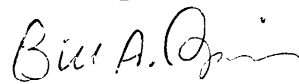
If OHS is responsible in the NWT to provide input or more respecting what the health and safety Standards are (as I suspect is the case), that makes our concern even more felt.

2. WCB COMPENSATION BENEFITS DIVERTED TO FUND OHS SERVICES

If funding for OHS services becomes the responsibility of employers, as opposed to tax payers; you can expect that significant monies allotted for compensation benefits for injured workers will be diverted to pay for the OHS services. Across Canada generally, Workers Compensation Boards are already struggling to pay for benefits that injured workers are entitled to. The "Meridith Principle" which drives the partnership formed so many years ago between employers and workers in Canada, is allegedly being compromised in many instances because of operating deficits. To add unrelated costs to a Workers Compensation Board, will in our opinion, further strain the level of benefits that are available to the injured worker.

Thank you for any consideration you can give to the above. I would welcome any comments you might want to make in respect to our concerns. If you have any questions, please feel free to call or correspond.

Sincerely,



Bill Spring  
Business Manager

/BAS

cc. correspondence binder "WCB"  
Jim Evoy-NWT Federation of Labour (fax only 403 873 6979)  
Bob Blakely-Alberta and NWT (District of MacKenzie) Bldg.Tr.Council

doc.union02nwtwcb



**IBEW**

TABLED DOCUMENT NO. 26-13(3) TABLED ON MAY 01 1996

LOCAL UNION 424

*International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers*

CENTRE 424

4232 - 93 STREET

EDMONTON, ALBERTA T6E 5P5

TELEPHONE (403) 462-5076

April 1, 1996

**BY FAX 1-800-661-0879**

Members of the Legislative Assembly  
Government of the Northwest Territories  
P.O. Box 1320  
Yellowknife, NWT  
X1A 2L9

Dear Members:

Local Union 424, IBEW is an affiliate member of the NWT Federation of Labour. We are opposed to the proposed transfer of the Occupational Health and Safety Department to the Workers Compensation Board.

We request that the Legislative Assembly stop the transfer and that the Minister responsible for WCB conduct a public review of the Workers' Compensation Act and the proposed transfer of safety functions. We believe that business and labour should be consulted in any revision process.

Thank you for your consideration of the above matter.

Sincerely,

Robert C. Lynn  
Business Manager  
Local Union 424, IBEW

RCL/mg

cc: Jim Evoy - President  
NWT Federation of Labour

TABLED DOCUMENT NO. 26-13(3) TABLED ON MAY 01 1996

**HAY RIVER MECHANICAL LTD.****28 MELVILLE DRIVE  
YELLOWKNIFE, N.W.T.  
X1A 2N2****TELEPHONE: (403) 920 - 4197****FAX: (403) 920 - 4296****MAILING ADDRESS:****P.O. BOX 2142****YELLOWKNIFE, N.W.T. X1A 2P6**

March 28, 1996

Members of the Legislative Assembly  
Government of the Northwest Territories  
P.O. Box 1320  
Yellowknife, N.W.T.  
X1A 2L9


Dear Members:

We as members of the NWT construction industry are concerned with the recent announcement of the transfer of twenty one (21) government employees of the GNWT Occupational Health & Safety to the Workers' Compensation Board.

The purpose of the Workers' Compensation Board is to provide protection for injured workers and employers. The Workers' Compensation Board was established as a no fault insurance program and is funded by employers. The money is held in trust for injured workers and their families.

As principal stake holders of the Northwest Territories Workers' Compensation Board, we demand that an extensive public review seeking input from the stake holders, as well an actuarial review take place before an undertaking of this magnitude occurs. Until these conditions can be met, the members of the NWT Construction Association are opposed to the transfer of GNWT, Department of Occupational Health & Safety to the Workers' Compensation Board.

Sincerely yours,  
HAY RIVER MECHANICAL LTD.



B.J. HENKEL  
MANAGER

NWT Construction Association Member

cc: MLA's

/bj

TABLED DOCUMENT NO. 26-13(3) TABLED ON MAY 01 1996

Members of the Legislative Assembly  
Government of the Northwest Territories  
P.O. Box 1320  
Yellowknife NT  
X1A 2L9

March 27, 1996

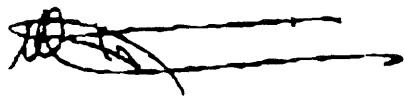
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Sincerely,



NWT Constuction Association Member  
ADCO NORTH LIMITED  
C.C. - ALL M.F.A.'s