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**12 October, 2017**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**2018 Detailed Workers-Compensation Assessment Rates**

The Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board (YWCHSB) announced today the assessment rates for 2018 for each of the industries and rate groups.

As was announced late in June, the average rate for 2018 will be \$1.93 per \$100 of payroll. This is an increase of about 3% over the corresponding number of \$1.87 in 2017. To put this in perspective, the rate in 2009 was \$3.00.

Several factors are worth consideration in this regard:

- The lost-time injury rate per 100 covered workers stayed the same at 2.1
- The number of lost-time claims rose very slightly from 444 to 454
- Most importantly, there were three deaths at work in 2016. This is up from zero in 2015.
- Investment-fund market returns were positive for the eighth year in a row.
- YWCHSB has enjoyed strong investment-fund market returns since 2009
- YWCHSB's decision, prompted by efforts on the part of the Yukon Chamber (YCC), to issue \$10 million in rebates to employers in late 2015 and again in late 2016 resulted in a significant decrease in the surplus in the YWCHSB compensation fund; this reduces the amount available to subsidise assessment rates.

YCC believes it is important for employers to understand that YWCHSB has enjoyed excellent returns on its investments and this in turn has resulted in a large surplus, and allowed YWCHSB to subsidise the average rates paid by employers over the last several years by about \$0.40 per \$100 of payroll. This significant subsidy on all rates has been part of efforts by the YWCHSB to reduce its growing surplus. Without these subsidies funded by surplus funds, employers would have paid higher assessments over the past several years. For example, to cover actual claims costs and administration without that subsidy, the average rate in 2018 would need to be about \$2.25 per \$100 of payroll, or about \$0.32 more than it is.

These are all average rates. The new rates by industry for 2018 can be found on the YWCHSB website at [wcb.yk.ca/rates](http://wcb.yk.ca/rates) The rates to be paid next year in specific industry groups changed in the following ways.



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Eight rate groups cover all non-government employers. The assessment rate for one of these rate groups (Resources and Transportation—Medium, covering about 250 employers) decreases by 2.7%.

The Chamber is disappointed that the rates for every other rate group: (together covering about 3300 employers) increase by anywhere from 0.3% to 10.3% respectively.

The reason for the changes is almost entirely the claims experience in each industry; higher claims costs mean higher assessment rates; while lower claims costs mean lower assessment rates.

YCC Board Chair Stanley Noel said, “The new rates remind us all of the importance of safe and healthy workplaces. Every Yukon worker needs to be, and deserves to be, safe at work. When they are, assessment rates go down. Decreased costs to employers enable businesses to invest resources in ways that grow the economy and create wealth.”

YCC President Peter Turner pointed out, “Good rates of return on YWCHSB’s investments continue to subsidise assessment rates over the last many years. Employers cannot count on those good investment returns, but by ensuring safe workplaces we can all contribute to reduced injury rates and claims costs, leading to lower assessment rates”

The Chamber encourages all employers, managers, supervisors and workers to work together to ensure everyone is safe at work.

### **Yukon Chamber of Commerce Background**

Incorporated in 1985, the Yukon Chamber of Commerce is the collective voice of Yukon's business community, working to create a climate conducive to a strong private-sector economy by providing leadership and representation on issues and projects affecting business. The Chamber works with over 700 Yukon businesses, through either direct or Community Chamber membership, as well as the five Community Chambers of Dawson City, Silver Trail, St. Elias, Watson Lake and Whitehorse.

- 30 -

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