

The Employers' Adviser



Employers'
Advisers

A newsletter by the Employers' Advisers Office, Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training and Responsible for Labour, B.C. Government.
The Employers' Advisers Office provides advice, assistance, representation and training on all aspects of workers' compensation.

To subscribe/unsubscribe, call 1-800-925-2233 or email EAO@eao-bc.org

EAO Website: www.labour.gov.bc.ca/eao WorkSafeBC Website: www.worksafebc.com

New Workplace Safety Legislation Introduced



On Thursday, October 8, the Honourable Shirley Bond introduced [Bill 35](#), the *Workers Compensation Amendment Act (no. 2), 2015*. In addition to some administrative issues pertaining to WorkSafeBC reporting, the Bill responds to [recommendations](#) arising from the Coroner's Inquests into the Lakeland (Roche and Little) and Babine (Luggi and Charlie) sawmill explosions. Here is the [Government Press Release](#). The EAO will continue to monitor the Bill's progression and will send out a Law and Policy Bulletin once Royal Assent is granted.

Policy Updates: Penalties and COR

WorkSafeBC is seeking feedback on a number of Prevention Policies. The [Consultation](#) includes proposed amendments to the criteria for imposing penalties and how they will be calculated.

WorkSafeBC is also asking for input regarding policy for the Partners in Injury and Disability Prevention Program, or [Certificate of Recognition](#) (COR).

Feedback is due November 27, 2015 for both.

New Annual Rate Notification Letters

Annual rate notification letters will be mailed out beginning October 26 which, for many, will be in a new format using plain language for easier comprehension. WorkSafeBC has announced that the average base premium rate for 2016 will remain unchanged at \$1.70 per \$100 of employer's assessable payroll. Click [here](#) for more information about 2016 rates, or call the EAO at our toll-free number below.

YOUR FEEDBACK IS REQUIRED TO HELP US SERVE YOU BETTER!

The Employers' Advisers Office will be sending out a **voluntary client survey** by email to many of our clients who have used our services during the past year. Your important responses will help us determine what we are doing well and what we might improve upon. If you receive this survey, we would greatly appreciate your assistance in giving us feedback!

A Sampling of What We've Been Up To:

Discriminatory Actions: The EAO was successful in helping five employers have discriminatory action complaints dismissed.

Relief of Costs: The EAO assisted three employers obtain relief of costs. In one case, 75% was awarded; in another the employer received an increase from 50% to 90% for a permanent disability award; in the third case, the employer received 100% ROC.

Prevention: The EAO helped three employers overturn or reduce administrative penalties, for a cumulative reduction of approximately \$135,000.

Assessments: The EAO assisted a sole proprietor at Review Division, allowing her to register for Personal Optional Protection. The EAO also assisted with an audit, saving the employer over \$45,000.

Policy Submissions: The EAO made written submissions to WorkSafeBC regarding new Investigations, Stop Work Orders, Citations, and Compliance Agreement policies.

Call the EAO for free assistance with similar workers' compensation issues!

