

WCB Rates Reflect Improvement in Safety Performance

The Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) has proposed a drop in its 2018 premium rate from \$2.64 in 2017 to \$2.55 for the Residential Construction (B12) Rate Code in 2018 per hundred dollars of payroll.

Similarly, the 2018 premium rate in Commercial, Industrial Construction (B13) Rate Code dropped from \$1.97 in 2017 to \$1.91 in 2018. The 2018 Premium Rate for Construction Trades (B11) stayed at \$1.52.

The announcement was made in Regina at the WCB's annual rate setting consultation with Saskatchewan employers, workers and other stakeholders on Oct. 17, 2017.

The WCB's Board Chairperson, Gord Dobrowolsky said, "Improvements in safety performance in many industry rate codes have contributed to the

proposed 2018 premium rates. As members of the Board, our goal is to uphold a balance between stable rates and a fully-funded compensation system."

"The WCB's proposed average premium rate is 42 per cent below the 15-year high of \$2.05 in 2004. This is good news for Saskatchewan employers and workers," Dobrowolsky said.

This improvement in safety performance is expected to show returns to construction owners beyond the drop in WCB Premium Rates. "For every dollar a company loses to a workplace incident, there is between \$5 and \$50 in ledger costs associated with property damage and between \$1 and \$3 in uninsured miscellaneous costs," said SCSA President, Collin Pullar, "to put that into perspective, a \$1,000 insured claim

could cost a company as much as \$53,000 in uninsured costs. A company with a profit margin of three per cent would have to then put in \$1.7 million of work to recover that loss."

While improvements in safety performance are beneficial to the industry, it's important that companies go beyond focusing on financial returns on safety,

WCB CEO Peter Federko said "What we're seeing across the province is an ongoing commitment to safety and prevention in the workplace and effective facilitation of return-to-work programs.

"While we are seeing improvements, we need to remain focused on the goal of Mission: Zero and ensure everyone is committed to keeping our workplace safe."

