

COCA WCB Update #397 May 12, 2008

**Council of Construction Associations**

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**COCA Seeks More Balanced Approach to Workplace Responsibility**

One of COCA's top priorities is to improve workplace health and safety. Many positive actions have been taken by COCA to reduce workplace injury and disease, including the establishment of the Construction Safety Association of BC.

Now, COCA is renewing a campaign that calls for the recognition that workers, as well as employers have responsibility for worksite safety. COCA was instrumental in getting WorkSafeBC to create the Order to a Worker process 10 years ago.

COCA's position is that when a worker has been properly trained and supervised -- then violates an occupational health and safety regulation, the WorkSafeBC order should be written on the worker, not the employer.

There is very strong evidence, which demonstrates that orders on workers are still a rare event.

The following numbers are from WorkSafeBC produced data for the Construction Industry only (full data set attached for Construction and All Industry):

	1998	2001	2004	2007
Orders to Workers	45	78	151	160

Orders to Employers	15,264	8,061	6,365	19,803
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From 1998-2007, there were a total of 1,153 Orders on Workers and 112,538 Orders on Employers.

What the data shows is that only *about 1%* of all orders are Orders to Workers.

The COCA Board of Directors will be meeting with senior WorkSafeBC officials to discuss this important issue.