

Council of Construction Associations

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COCA WCB Update #419 November 6, 2008

COCA Succeeds in Securing Coverage for Apprentices

In December, 2007, COCA reported that the WorkSafeBC coverage for apprentices was going to be withdrawn because of a change made to legislation within the Ministry of Advanced Education.

Originally, the WorkSafeBC coverage was due to expire on December 31, 2007. COCA met with WorkSafeBC officials and they agreed to extend coverage until October 1, 2008 in order to try and resolve the issue.

This decision could have had far-reaching impact, at a time when the industry and the province of BC desperately needs to encourage new apprentices to help build our province.

COCA also worked with the Sheet Metal Industry Workers Training Centre Society and others to obtain move this issue forward.

As a result of ongoing discussions over almost a year, WorkSafeBC and the Ministry of Advanced Education have agreed to provide coverage.

The WorkSafeBC Board of Directors Minute on this topic reads, in part:

1. Individuals registered as apprentices with the ITA, attending ITA-approved apprenticeship technical training at ITA-designated private training institutions ("Apprentices"), are deemed to be workers of the Crown in right of the Province under section 3(6) of the *Act*;

1. Compensation under the *Act* is payable out of the accident fund for injuries arising out of and in the course of training for Apprentices as described in section 1 of this Resolution. Where the injury results in a period of temporary disability with a loss of earnings, compensation will be payable in accordance with the policies of the Board, but where the injury results in a period of temporary disability with no loss of earnings,

(a) a health care benefit only is payable except as provided in section 2(b); and
(b) where training allowances paid by Canada or the Province are suspended, the Board may, for the period it considers advisable, pay compensation in the amount of the training allowance.

COCA thanks WorkSafeBC for recognizing the need for coverage and for working to a successful conclusion.