

Council of Construction Associations
#138 - 5751 Cedarbridge Way, Richmond, B.C. V6X 2A8
Telephone (604) 241-7667
email: grantmcmillan@shaw.ca
Grant McMillan, President

COCA Update on WorkSafeBC Activities #478 July 13, 2010

COCA Seeks Change to Stop Over-Compensation

The Council of Construction Associations (COCA) continues to seek a change to the Workers' Compensation Act to stop the over-compensation of apprentices.

Grant McMillan of COCA recently described the over-payment that is built into the current legislation in an interview with the Journal of Commerce (JOC).

The first paragraph of the JOC article reads:

“The pay for an apprentice in B.C. gets a lot better if they're injured and this concerns some construction employers. After an apprentice has been injured on the job and has received temporary wage-loss benefits for 10 weeks, he or she is eligible for compensation at a rate of 90 per cent of a beginner journeyman's wage.”

For the complete article, please go to: <http://www.joconl.com/article/id39617>

The article points out that, when WorkSafeBC does its wage rate review at 10 weeks, the legislation requires that the Apprentice's wage loss payment be increased to the Journeyman rate.

This typically results in a worker moving from \$14 an hour to \$28 per hour or more!

This over-compensation takes place in all industries, not just construction.

“We believe that there was an accidental lapse in drafting this legislation,” said McMillan. “We are asking government to make the minor change that is needed to restore balance and fairness. Workers clearly deserve compensation when they are injured, but it shouldn't be at twice the pay of what they were earning.” (Workers other than Apprentices receive 90% of their net earnings when they are on workers' compensation.)