

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

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Construction Rates Hit by Longer Duration of Claims

The preliminary assessment rates for 2012 have been announced by WorkSafeBC.

(The rates are described as preliminary because they have not yet been approved by the WorkSafeBC Board of Directors. This approval is expected by October. The preliminary rates normally become the actual rates.)

The Industrial, Commercial and Institutional is at its lowest rate ever -- \$3.35 per \$100 of payroll. This is excellent news during a time of fragile recovery from global economic upheaval.

However, there are signs of a major challenge on the horizon. The Duration of Construction claims – the average time off on claim – continues at record high levels of about 75 days. This is up from an average of 50 days only three years ago.

This increase is probably due to the effects of the recession but construction companies need to become more active with Return to Work and Stay at Work programs. With fewer jobs to go back to, workers may be staying off claim longer. Employers may also have been focused on securing new jobs rather than on Return to Work plans for injured workers.

We need to focus on Return to Work plans to reduce our rates.

The best way to improve performance on Return to Work is to seek help from the new WorkSafeBC Construction Nurse Line when you need it. The service is free (you already pay for it with your assessments).

For help with: Return to Work; Disability Management; Claim Updates, call:

604-279-8155, or 1-877-633-6233

The changes in some of the construction rate groups are shown below.

All rates shown below are in dollars per \$100 payroll.

Examples of preliminary rates decreases are:

Highway Maintenance decreases from \$3.06 to \$2.85

Industrial, Commercial and Institutional decreases from \$3.93 to \$3.35

Low Slope Roofing decreases from \$6.52 to \$5.19

Masonry drops from \$3.02 to \$2.90

Concrete Placing decreases from \$3.28 to \$3.24

Steep Slope Roofing decreases from \$11.72 to \$10.88

Highway Maintenance decreases from \$3.28 to \$3.24

Examples of preliminary rates increases are:

Construction labour supply increases from \$3.39 to \$4.01

Building Demolition increases from \$4.81 to \$5.32

Crane Operation increases from \$3.21 to \$3.39

Plumbing, Heating, Residential Air Conditioning increases from \$2.26 to \$2.39

Home Building increases from \$4.66 to \$5.19

Power Pole, Powerline, or Transmission Line Installation, Service and Repair increases from \$3.14 to \$3.38

Electrical Work increases from \$1.71 to \$1.81

Painting or Wallpapering increases from \$3.12 to \$3.30

Structural Moving increases from \$4.36 to \$5.12

The complete list of WorkSafeBC preliminary rates for 2012 can be viewed online at:

http://www.worksafebc.com/insurance/premiums/2012_prelim_rates/classification/browse_sectors_and_subsectors/default.asp