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**DAVE BASPALY, PRESIDENT**

**COCA UPDATE ON WORKSAFEBC ACTIVITIES #580 ~ FEBRUARY 21, 2014**

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***WORKSAFEBC CHAIR, GEORGE MORFITT, ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT OF PRESIDENT AND CEO, DAVID ANDERSON***

**Richmond, B.C., February 20, 2014** — I am announcing today that Mr. David Anderson will retire as President and CEO of WorkSafeBC on June 30, 2014. David had advised the Board last year that it was time to embark on a process to find his replacement and, while we are extremely sorry to lose him, we respect his decision.

After almost twenty years of exceptional service to the organization, ten of them as President and Chief Executive Officer and ten in the senior positions of Vice President of Human Resources and Vice President of Compensation Services, we are losing a distinguished and highly regarded executive.

While David has always been generous in giving credit to others for the organization's achievements, on behalf of the Board of Directors I want to take this opportunity to give David the recognition he richly deserves. WorkSafeBC's outstanding performance during his tenure and the progressive strength of the organization that he has led since 2003 speak to his skill and commitment.

The first goal for our organization is the elimination of workplace injury and over the decade of David's leadership B.C. has made significant progress towards that goal; injury rates have been reduced considerably. While average premium rates which employers pay to cover the cost of the system have risen in the last two years, those rates are still close to the lowest they have been in thirty years. Our compensation system in B.C. is fully funded, which means that future workers' benefits are protected and future employers benefit from rate stability. These are only some of the achievements in the twenty years of executive service that Mr. Anderson has given to WorkSafeBC. Our [Annual Report](#) provides a more complete picture of the accomplishments achieved under his leadership.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I also wish to thank David for his counsel which we have greatly valued over the years.

The Board is now in the process of undertaking a search for the next President and CEO of WorkSafeBC and has retained an independent executive search firm to assist us. Our goal is to ensure that over the coming months there is a smooth leadership transition.

George Morfitt, [B.Com](#),  
FCA Chair,  
Board of Directors WorkSafeBC

***WORKSAFEBC PARTNERS WITH BC/YUKON ASSOCIATION OF ERGONOMISTS TO HOST ONE-DAY EVENT***



If a workspace, work tool, or work process is well-designed, it can improve productivity and reduce costs. Most importantly — it can increase safety.

That’s the premise behind the upcoming **one-day symposium being held in Vancouver on May 22, 2014**. The event will showcase the concepts, theories, and application of safety by design. Six speakers from a variety of industries, including construction, health care, forestry, and utilities, will discuss the range of benefits that come from thinking about safety in the early stages — before the work starts.

“We want to introduce the concept of designing for safety up front, rather than dealing with hazards and risk after the fact,” says human factors specialist **Heather Kahle**, who is helping to organize the one-day event.

**WHAT IS SAFETY BY DESIGN?**

“Safety by design is about being proactive,” Heather says. “It means identifying, reducing, or eliminating hazards during the early stages of a project or process, or the development of a product or structure.”

This kind of thinking applies to both large and small safety projects.

For example, if you're constructing a building, you could install permanent fall protection anchors in anticipation of future work on the building. You could also choose materials or work processes that are inherently safer than the alternatives, such as using scaffolding as part of a work process, instead of a ladder.

With the safety by design concept, everyone from workers and employers to health and safety committees and engineers plays a vital role in reducing the risk. "That's why safety by design is such an important concept. It can really protect people from potential injuries," Heather says.

#### **MORE INFORMATION**

For more information, please contact the Human Factors team at [humanfactors@worksafebc.com](mailto:humanfactors@worksafebc.com). To register, visit the [B.C. division of the Association of Canadian Ergonomists' website](#).