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MEDIA RELEASE

Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission Releases Assessment Rates for 2017

Yellowknife, NT (November 29, 2016) – Today, the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission (WSCC) of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut release the 2017 employer assessment rates.

For the third consecutive year, the average provisional assessment rate will remain at $2.00 per $100 assessable payroll. This provisional target rate is the rate employers would pay if there was only one rate for all employers, and is the rate the WSCC uses as a starting point when setting individual subclass rates.

In 2017 the Year's Maximum Insurable Remuneration (YMIR) will increase from $88,600 to $90,600. YMIR is the maximum earnings the WSCC uses to calculate compensation paid to an injured worker per year.

To determine employer assessment rates, the Governance Council consults with independent actuaries on an annual basis. Assessment rates are calculated based on the expected current year claims costs and future claims liability. The rates are calculated as a whole, and broken down by industry subclass. Assessment rates reflect each industry's actual claims cost experience.

Once again, employers can conveniently access the individual subclass rates for all industries for the upcoming year via *WSCC Connect*, the WSCC's e-Business service. You can view the WSCC's current and historical rates by Class & Subclass and by Specific Industry.

WSCC Connect is accessible through wscc.nt.ca or wscc.nu.ca. Click on the *WSCC Connect* logo located at the top of the page and follow the button to View Assessment Rates.

The WSCC strives to sustain a fund that protects employers and injured workers over the long term, and continues its commitment to working in partnership with our stakeholders to ensure workplace safety, and care for workers.

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WSCC is an arm's length government agency responsible for administering the Workers' Compensation Acts, Safety Acts, Explosives Use Acts, the Mine Health and Safety Acts, and associated regulations.

Together with our partners, the WSCC provides services to almost 40,000 workers and 4,000 employers across the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. We process over 3,000 claims and conduct over 1,000 inspections annually to ensure the safety of Northern workplaces. The WSCC is unique in Canada as it is the only workers' compensation organization in the country to insure workers across more than one province or territory. We proudly offer services in the official languages of both territories.

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BACKGROUNDER
2017 Assessment Rates

- All operations employing workers in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut must pay assessments to the WSCC.

- The WSCC uses assessments to provide compensation (wage replacement, medical aid, rehabilitation, and pensions) and cover the WSCC's administration costs.

- The Northwest Territories and Nunavut Health Care Plans do not pay doctor, hospital, or medical bills for work-related incidents and injuries; the WSCC pays.

- In setting Assessment Rates, the WSCC Governance Council considers what is:
  - ✓ **Sustainable** for claim costs;
  - ✓ **Reflective** of industry experience;
  - ✓ **Responsive** to claims experience trends; and
  - ✓ **Fair** to employers.

- The WSCC calculates assessment rates in consultation with an independent actuary through past trend analysis. This determines the optimal rates to cover current expenses and future claims liabilities.

- **The 2017 Average Provisional Assessment Rate will remain at $2.00.**
  - The average provisional assessment rate is the rate employers would pay if there was only one rate, consistent across all employers. The WSCC uses the provisional rate as a starting point when setting individual subclass rates.

- **Assessable Payroll:**
  - The WSCC calculates employer assessments by applying the specific industry subclass rate to every $100 of the employer's assessable payroll. Assessment calculation example:
    1. Employer A operates a retail store.
    2. Employer A estimates their 2017 assessable payroll at $100,000.
    3. The 2017 WSCC industry subclass rate for Retail is $2.37 per $100 of their assessable payroll.
    4. Employer A's 2017 assessment is **$2,370.00** *[($100,000 / $100) * $2.37].*

- **Year's Maximum Insurable Remuneration (YMIR)**
  - The 2017 YMIR will increase to $90,600.
  - The Governance Council sets YMIR every year.
  - YMIR is the maximum amount of earnings the WSCC uses to calculate compensation for injured workers per year.
  - The Governance Council's goal is to cover 100% of wages for 70-80% of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut workforce.
  - YMIR affects the amount of payroll for which an employer pays assessments.
  - An employer's assessable payroll is the gross payroll for each worker up to the YMIR limit.

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2017 ASSESSMENT RATES

Rates for 2017		
SUBCLASS	**2016**	**2017**
10 – Outdoor Recreation & Tourism	$7.20	$7.25
22 – Mining Operations	$1.67	$1.62
27 – Mining Services	$5.63	$5.90
36 – Oil & Gas Well Drilling	$1.26	$1.51
37 – Oil & Gas Development, Services & Pipeline Operations	$0.77	$0.92
41 – General Construction	$6.00	$6.04
43 – Mobile Equipment Operations, Logging & Marine Construction	$4.11	$4.35
46 – Mechanical Installation & Servicing	$3.03	$3.03
51 – Air Transportation	$2.61	$2.59
53 – Ground Transportation	$3.28	$3.33
54 – Trucking (General & Long Distance) & Water Transportation	$5.61	$4.93
62 – Retail, Wholesaling and Light Manufacturing & Tourism	$2.16	$2.37
63 – Metal Fabrication, Body Work & Alterations	$2.11	$2.53
66 – Automotive Sales & Services	$2.28	$2.59
71 – Business, Communications & Amusement Services	$0.58	$0.58
74 – Health, Welfare & Emergency Services	$2.01	$2.09
76 – Accommodation, Catering, Food & Beverage Services	$1.87	$2.07
81 – Government of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut & Public Utilities	$0.88	$0.89
82 – Authorities & D.E.W. Line	$2.30	$2.29

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Historical Provisional Target Rates

2001 o **$1.00 provisional rate** o **35% discounted rate as with previous six years** o **Lowest provisional rate in Canada**	***2009*** o **$1.71 provisional rate** o **One of the lowest provisional rates in Canada**
2002 o **$1.18 provisional rate** o **35% discounted rate as with previous seven years** o **Lowest provisional rate in Canada**	***2010*** o **$1.80 provisional rate** o **One of the lowest provisional rates in Canada**
2003 o **$1.60 provisional rate** o **30% discounted rate** o **Second lowest provisional rate in Canada**	***2011*** o **$1.73 provisional rate** o **One of the lowest provisional rates in Canada**
2004 o **$1.91 provisional rate** o **20% discounted rate** o **One of the lowest provisional rates in Canada**	***2012*** o **$1.77 provisional rate** o **Rates comparable to other Canadian jurisdictions**
2005 o **$1.86 provisional rate** o **10% discounted rate** o **One of the lowest provisional rates in Canada**	***2013*** o **$2.05 provisional rate** o **Rates comparable to other Canadian jurisdictions**
2006 o **$1.87 provisional rate** o **One of the lowest provisional rates in Canada**	***2014*** o **$2.05 provisional rate** o **Rates comparable to other Canadian jurisdictions**
2007 o **$1.71 provisional rate** o **One of the lowest provisional rates in Canada**	***2015*** o **$2.00 provisional rate** o **Rates comparable to other Canadian jurisdictions**
2008 o **$1.71 provisional rate** o **30% rebate cheque on 2006 assessments** o **One of the lowest provisional rates in Canada**	***2016*** o **$2.00 provisional rate** o **Rates comparable to other Canadian jurisdictions**