



POLICY UPDATE

News and views from the Metropolitan Halifax Chamber of Commerce August 28, 1998

Workers' Compensation - A System in Need of Reform?

Over the past two years the Chamber's Small Business Committee has been pressing the Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) to make changes to the WCB system that would make it more effective and efficient. The goal is a system that works for business by protecting our employees without placing an unmanageable financial or administrative burden on employers.

Specific suggestions from the Committee have included the need to review the timing and processes related to premium payments and the question of whether or not private sector insurance alternatives could play a larger role in our province's employee protection program.

The WCB recently announced a pilot project to test quarterly payment schedules for WCB premiums. This pilot was welcomed by the Small Business Committee, and we look forward to ensuring that Chamber members are part of the test group.

This spring the provincial government established a Select Committee on the Workers Compensation Act to do a comprehensive review of the entire WCB Act itself. The Select Committee has been asked to draft legislation aimed at improving the working of the Act.

The Select Committee is looking for ideas from Nova Scotians, ideas that will make the WCB system better. The Committee will

be in Halifax on September 9 and 10, 1998 to hear from Nova Scotians on how to improve the legislation.

The Chamber needs to hear from you, our members, as we prepare our submission to the Select Committee. Please consider the questions below and fax your responses to the Chamber office by September 4, 1998.

Your Voice is the Voice of Business for Metro Halifax.

Editor's Note - Look for the full submission to the Select Committee in an upcoming issue of Business Voice.

*Be the Voice of Business -- Fax Back Before **Friday September 4, 1998** to the Chamber at 468-7333.*

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|----|--|-----------------|-------|----------|-------|--------|----------|
| 1) | What industry are you in? _____ | Is it Seasonal? | Yes | No | | | |
| 2) | How many employees do you have? | 1-2 | 3-10 | 11-25 | 26-50 | 51-100 | over 100 |
| 3) | Does the WCB system need to be changed? | Yes | No | | | | |
| 4) | What kind of experience has your business had with the WCB system? | Positive | Mixed | Negative | | | |
| 5) | Should private insurance be looked at as an alternative to the WCB system? | Yes | No | | | | |
| 6) | Should the method of premium payment be adjusted? | Yes | No | | | | |

How? _____

7) Do you have particular areas of concern with the existing WCB system?

8) What other alternatives could be looked at to improve the WCB system?
