

PROFILE

Margaret Lipke Williams Lake, B.C.

The old saying, 'If you want something done, ask a busy person', seems to fit Margaret Lipke to a 't'. Born and raised in Williams Lake, this mother of two has a full time job and is an active volunteer in the community. While attending a B.C. Parent Advisory Committee conference Margaret noticed a Workers' Compensation Board's Young Workers' Safety display. "I was very interested in what WCB had to say about kids in the workplace, and the fact that they cared about the kids", explains Margaret. "I spent a lot of time researching and listening to the Young Workers' Safety presentations, and decided I wanted to get involved."

Margaret's two sons, age 14 and 16, will soon be entering the work force, as will many of their friends. "In our area, forestry is the major industry", says Margaret, "and injuries can be serious." She goes on to explain the importance of raising awareness amongst employers as well as young workers. "Increased awareness and education regarding workplace safety and the higher risk for young workers is a win-win for the entire community," states Margaret.

This past February, Margaret was invited to give a Young Workers' Safety presentation at a Williams Lake Chamber of Commerce Week luncheon. Says Margaret, "It was a great opportunity to expose this program to many of our local businesses."

Margaret's other volunteer role as PAC District Liaison for the Cariboo – Chilcotin school district helps her to take WCB's Young Worker Safety message into the schools. "The kids are very receptive to the information", says Margaret, "The more employers and youth who can be exposed to this topic, the more we can reverse young worker accidents and save lives."