

November 26, 2002

Each of the projects you will review today is the result of the combined efforts of the healthcare community, researchers and the Workers' Compensation Board.

Employers, workers and their representative associations came together with the Board to create research and pilot projects that focused on their collective commitment to creating safe and healthy workplaces. Several of those pilot projects are already showing positive results in reducing injuries and the research being done will make available more and better data for the future.

Each of these projects was initiated when a worker, an employer or an association came forward with an "idea" that a change to a procedure or an improvement to equipment would reduce workplace injury and disease. The "idea" was refined, a joint steering committee formed and projects brought forward for approval. The time and energy of these committees were the foundation for the successes that are here today.

To each of the members of a committee, their employers and the workers, who participated in projects I say, "Thank you and well done. I am both pleased and proud that the Workers' Compensation Board has workplace partners so committed to a safe and healthy workplace."

Specifically, I would like to publicly thank our project partners who initiated and developed the proposals. They are:

Healthcare Benefit Trust  
Fraser Health Authority  
Pearson Hospital

Hospital Employees' Union  
Nanaimo Regional General Hospital

As well, we also thank our healthcare industry partners for their substantive and ongoing contributions. They are:

Health Employers Association of BC  
Health Sciences Association

BC Nurses Union  
BC Institute of Technology

A word of thanks must be extended to the six health authorities that continued their commitment to these ongoing projects.

Several of these projects received support and health and safety expertise from the Occupational Health and Safety Agency for Healthcare in BC. The leadership offered by that agency proved invaluable to both the WCB and its partners.

We want you to look at these projects not as an end product but as what can happen when the research community and healthcare professionals work together.

The Workers' Compensation Board looks forward to many significant partnerships in the future.

Roberta Ellis  
Vice President  
Prevention Division