



OCCUPATIONAL FIRST AID ATTENDANTS ASSOCIATION NEWS

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Recertification Proposal Reconsidered

“ the cost of this change would be borne by the attendants and employees ”

The proposal to allow an alternative form of Occupational First Aid certification renewal for experienced Level 2 and 3 Attendants did not survive the public consultation process. In the early '90's the WCB held two First Aid Task analysis sessions which generated interest in alternatives to the normal recertification procedures for experienced First Aid Attendants. The WCB adapted a model recertification programme to this philosophy and presented it last autumn. It would allow experienced attendants to bypass the normal course and exam procedure by substituting alternative training acceptable to the WCB. Cranbrook office FAO Al Dresser conducted thirteen meetings in twelve centres throughout BC with the First Aid community in the autumn of 2000 to discuss "continuing first aid training" (CFAT). Participants presented opinions spanning the range from total support for the

changes to total opposition. The strong opposition led to the result that no changes will happen immediately, but the Prevention Division of the WCB will continue to examine the certification alternatives. There was concern in the First Aid community, only some of which was stated at the consultations, that the main purpose of the proposal was the erosion of the role of FAO's in two stages, by re-allocating resources in the First Aid Section by reducing the FAO's role in examinations, and having them conduct more field investigations. This would place them in the field with the Occupational Safety Officers, and this writer at least, believes would lead to FAO's becoming more like OSO's and less like FAO's; ultimately converting FAO's into OSO's. The costs of this change would be borne by the attendants and employers, as the First Aid Section provides less and less service

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The Occupational First Aid Attendants Association of British Columbia



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