



OCCUPATIONAL FIRST AID ATTENDANTS ASSOCIATION NEWS

Mark your calendars

Open House
Oct. 5th
Nominations
for BOD

Nov. 20th, 2002

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Is there a Plan in Place?

Where's the Beef !

Mark Luttrell

Statistics Canada tells us that British Columbia has gained 16,000 new jobs last month. The Business Gurus tell us that our economy is doing well. Interest rates are lower than they have been in many, many years. But are we doing as well as the spin doctors are claiming?

It appears as if the Workers' Compensation Board of British Columbia [WCB] did not like what it heard at the public hearings this past spring. With the majority of stakeholders against the WCB's proposed removal of first aid examinations, it appears that consultation has been flushed down the toilet. To add insult to injury, in the past two months alone, the WCB has announced 385 lay-offs; almost the entire First Aid section of approximately 40 personnel is among these 385 lay-offs. It seems that eradicating the entire First Aid Section is the Prevention Division's method of dealing with their share of the WCB's 2001 operating loss of \$287 million.

During this past year, the WCB was encouraging stakeholders to participate in the regulation review process. The rumour being spread



Photo by C. Maynard - East Kootenay Competition 2002

across industry by WCB spin doctors suggested that interested parties were being given the opportunity to

“First Aid examinations will be privatized...”

forward their ideas to the WCB in a consultative process of change. Horse cookies! Given that first aid examinations will be privatized, it behoves the WCB to consult with those very stakeholders who are closest to the issue, first aid attendants, instructors and the present examiners. Those that actually work with the current system would be invaluable to the WCB bureaucrats in

devising a new plan that might actually work.

The WCB has not produced “standards” for course content nor examination expectations, and again, there was no consultation with those stakeholders closest to the issue. This is a classic case of the cart being put

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