



## **Restoring Balance in Workers' Compensation is Needed, not a New Study**

***For Immediate Release***

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The New Brunswick Federation of Labour (NBFL) would like to see a balanced approach when it comes to workers' compensation in New Brunswick, not a new government study. Today the Government of New Brunswick announced that it is striking a Taskforce, composed of both employee and employer representatives, as well as having the Auditor General review workers' compensation in the province.

"Historically, decisions made regarding workers' compensation in New Brunswick have benefited mostly employers at the expense of injured workers," says Chuck Rouse, Vice-President responsible for Health and Safety at the New Brunswick Federation of Labour, "This is not sustainable and has to change."

Over the past 25 years, the average assessment rates paid by employers to obtain no-fault insurance through WorkSafeNB has dramatically decreased. Even with the slight 2017 increase in assessment rates, assessment rates are still 34% lower than they were in 1992, and are some of the lowest in Canada.

"The New Brunswick Federation of Labour is disappointed that the government is not letting the WorkSafeNB Board of Directors do its job," adds Rouse, "I hope that this does not mean that benefits to injured workers will be cut once again."

The WorkSafeNB Board of Directors' long-term fiscal strategy has been to make sure that it is fully funded so it can cover all its liabilities. Rates needed to go up in 2017 and should go up again in 2018 to make sure that the accident fund remains adequately funded to cover its liabilities.

"The Taskforce should mandate its employer and employee representatives to negotiate a formula that ensures assessment rates remain stable for employers over the long-term and allows for a cost sharing when the accident fund is in a surplus position," concludes Patrick Colford, President of the New Brunswick Federation of Labour.

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