

My name is Wayne DeLong. I want to take this opportunity to thank the review panel to allow me to express my views on WHSCC. In June 2001 I had a workplace accident. For a long period of time i became obsessed with the working process of WHSCC. I read everything I could,talked to people in, on, and outside of the system. The result was, I did a review or WHSCC from the inside looking out. It is very easy to criticize a large complex breaucrecy dealing with difficult issues. It is more difficult to figure out what is a symptom of a problem and what is the root cause. So instead of criticizing WHSCC I would like to make 5 recommendations for the panel to look at.

1.Third party oversight(accountability) with direct links from employee,and employer advocates to the ombudsmans office. This would place a corrective process on policy pertaining to the WHSCC act and the OHS act, and most importantly, correct repetative bad team decisions at the regional levels.

2.The commission invest in a computer system that allows a collection of all information requested by the reporting requirement in both the WHSCC act and the OHS act without interferring with the privacy act. Information is the best tool for accident prevention.

3.Allowing WHSCC to prosecute employers in house without having to resort to the Queens Bench. The process is extremely costly,time consuming and does neither the employer, employee or the commission any good.

4.I am sur the panel will hear about abuse of the system,along with the system abusing individuals. The WHSCC goes to great lenghts and expense to provide medical help to get the injured back to work. Unfortunatly there is very little help for the mental health issues. All seriously injured workers are scared. Scared of their financial future, scared of having to change jobs, or scared of getting reinjured. If a worker does not feel he is supported by an impersonal system or feel he is just a file to be closed or disqualified. Sometimes it is just easier to either conciously or unconsciously hang onto the injury. Physchologist should study todays policy and WHSCC act and find ways to make the system more personal and less adversarial.

5.The review panel should take a close look at WHSCC act chapter W-13 section 13 and 14. With todays changing workplace, Health plans and big business getting bigger, the practice of putting injured workers on their health plan for injuries occuring on the job should stop. At first glance it seems harmless,WHSCC pay no benefits,employer has no accident history against him. There is consequences. I know.

Sincerely.

Wayne DeLong