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# News Release



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## Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Commission of New Brunswick

For Immediate Release

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### WHSCC 2006 ANNUAL REPORT HIGHLIGHTS YEAR'S SUCCESSES

**Saint John, NB:** The second lowest accident frequency rate on record, an operating surplus of \$82.1 million, and a fully-funded liability of 111.0% – these are just a few of the highlights featured in the Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Commission's 2006 Annual Report, released today.

"This report is a testament to the dedication and hard work not only by the WHSCC's board of directors, management and staff, but also the workers and employers of New Brunswick," said Roberta Dugas, WHSCC chair. "Injuries drive costs, and, by reducing accidents, workers and employers have helped the Commission to ensure the security of benefits, and the stability of assessment rates," she said.

"I am especially pleased that, for the second year in a row, we've maintained a fully-funded liability. Full funding contributes to rate stability by reducing the impact of year-to-year fluctuations, disasters and other events. Full funding also contributes, in part, to a decrease in the average assessment rate." Employers saw the average assessment rate decrease to \$2.14 per \$100 of payroll, down from \$2.20 in 2004, and \$2.19 in 2005.

The province's injured workers saw payments increase by 4% over 2005, to \$127 million.

The provincial accident frequency dropped from 3.63 (per 100 full-time employees) in 2005, to 3.57 in 2006, representing the second lowest year on record. Compared to other jurisdictions, New Brunswick continues to record fewer lost-time accidents than the national average.

"While 2006 saw a decrease in fatalities, we believe that any fatality is unacceptable. It means that there is much more work to be done, and improvements have to be made," Dugas said. "Through good governance and leadership, education and enforcement, we will continue to strive to ensure healthy and safe workplaces, and the best benefits and rates possible to New Brunswick's injured workers and employers."

**MORE INFORMATION**

The WHSCC's 2006 Annual Report, including its Financial Statements, is available for download at [www.whscc.nb.ca](http://www.whscc.nb.ca).

**ABOUT THE WHSCC**

The WHSCC administers no-fault workplace accident and disability insurance for employers and their workers, funded solely through assessments on employers. The WHSCC is committed to the prevention of workplace injuries and accidents through education and the enforcement of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*.