



## NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**  
2009/10/29

**Media Contact:** Mary Tucker, Manager of Communications  
WorkSafeNB  
Telephone: 506 632-2828 or 1 800 222-9775

### **WORKSAFE NB ANNOUNCES 2010 ASSESSMENT RATES**

**Saint John, NB:** WorkSafeNB announced today a slight increase in the 2010 average assessment rate, from \$2.03 per \$100 of payroll to \$2.08. The increase is effective January 1, 2010.

"This represents the first increase since 2004, and is necessary to help move WorkSafeNB toward a fully-funded position," said Roberta Dugas, chair of WorkSafeNB's board of directors. In 2008, WorkSafeNB's funding level fell to 87.7% because of lower than projected investment income caused by volatile capital markets worldwide. WorkSafeNB is legislated to maintain 100% funding over four years.

"While investment returns are improving, it is difficult to predict if this trend will continue. We must take precautionary measures to secure future benefits for New Brunswick's injured workers and their dependants," Dugas said.

Along with a gradual recovery in investment returns, 2009 has seen lower than projected accident costs. "Because accident costs play the largest part in determining assessment rates, it means that New Brunswick's workplace safety continues to improve. Maintaining healthy and safe workplaces is the best way for employers to reduce their assessment rates," she said.

WorkSafeNB continues to maintain the lowest assessment rates in Atlantic Canada.

### **ABOUT WORKSAFE NB**

WorkSafeNB administers no-fault workplace accident and disability insurance for employers and their workers, funded solely through employer assessments. WorkSafeNB is committed to preventing workplace injuries and illness through education and the enforcement of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*.