

# COMPONENT NEWS

JANUARY 2011



*Never Give In*

## Workers Compensation Advocacy Links

[CompoNet](#)

[Community Legal Assistance Society](#)

[BC Federation of Labour](#)

## Workers Compensation Board / Govern-

[WorkSafeBC](#)

[Royal Commission on Workers'](#)

[Compensation in BC](#)

[Workers Compensation Act](#)

## UPCOMING TRAINING & EDUCATIONAL COURSES

• [Workers Advisors Office - 2011](#)  
[March 9.](#) [April 13.](#) [May 18.](#) [June 11.](#)

• [Rush Crane Guenther - 2011](#)  
[April 7.](#) [May 6.](#) [June 10.](#) [September 23.](#)  
[October 7.](#) [November 4](#)

## 'WORKSAFEBC' FORCES UNSAFE WORK PRACTICES

WorkSafeBC refuses time loss pay to attend treatments outside the workers community.

Although the Board approved and paid for treatment and travel expenses the Board refused to pay for lost time related to treatment.

A shift worker scheduled to work nights was required to attend an appointment during the day some 300km round trip from home and another 120km round trip from the workplace. Although the worker was able to work the shift the night before the appointment the worker had to leave work early in order to get enough rest for a safe drive to the neighbouring remote community.

The worker also missed the following nightshift as a result of the long day and lack of adequate rest.

Although the WCB likes to operate under the name 'WorkSafe' they're at the top of the list in contributing to the unsafe workplace.

The fact is that workers in remote communities have to take appointments when they can get them even for family physicians, let alone specialists.

Although as noted the nearest available location for the approved treatment was a 300km round trip from home and another 120km round trip from work via remote winter roads WorkSafeBC decided the worker should have reported for work and that no income loss is payable.

Now one would think that the Board, operating as *WorkSafeBC*, would be concerned with the safety side of things in these sort of cases especially when the appointment was necessary, and a part of the required treatment and so the appointment, treatment, and resulting fatigue are all one piece and fatigued is a genuine OH&S impairment under WC regulation.

Essentially WorkSafeBC forces injured workers to choose between lost pay and safety in the workplace and on the road, also putting their colleagues and the public at risk.

'WorkSafeBC' ..... What's in a name??

### Related Article:

[UBC Study Finds Working Night Shift Can Be Hazardous To Your Health](#)

### UPCOMING ISSUES:

#### WCAT CLOUDING THE ISSUE WITH FACTS

More and more WCAT is imposing an increasingly adversarial and legalistic system with a clear bias against workers where the purpose of the rules are lost and only the rules themselves remain making a fair and just appeal system almost impossible for workers!

#### WORKSAFEBC RESTRICTS ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

WorkSafeBC now requires workers to get prior approval before seeing their treating GP's and Specialists and now has Outside Service Providers threatening workers with back to work orders!