

## COMPONENT NEWS

FEBRUARY 2011

*Never Give In*

## Workers Compensation Advocacy Links

[CompoNet](#)[Community Legal Assistance Society](#)[BC Federation of Labour](#)Workers Compensation Board /  
Government Links[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' DEFERS HEALTH AND SAFETY DECISIONS TO OUTSIDE SERVICE PROVIDERS**

'WorkSafeBC' case managers charged with the responsibility and management of injured workers safe return to work seemingly no longer feel obligated to consult with a worker's doctor before sending him/her back to work and in fact, apparently leave that task to 'for profit' outside service providers?

In a recent case a worker with a severe knee injury who had just undergone surgery, was still undergoing post-surgical procedures, and had only recently had his meds reduced to T3s from Oxycodone received a phone call from a Vancouver Island rehab clinic informing him, with one business days notice, he was to return to work on Monday.

The worker explained that he was unable to endure standing or walking yet and that he hadn't received return to work approval

from his treating doctor or specialist.

In fact the treating specialist planned to follow-up with a cortisone injection and discuss an appropriate return to work plan at that time.

Apparently neither the treating doctor or specialist had been consulted by the rehab clinic either.

When the worker asked if he or treating medical practitioners didn't have a choice in a safe return to work program, the rehab consultant stated 'you have a choice, you can go to work on Monday or you can quit receiving benefits.'

To make matters worse the return to work wasn't even arranged as a 'graduated return to work' in order to evaluate the workers post surgical capabilities, it was 5 days per week at 8 hours per day based on the employers unqualified evaluation of light duty, again without the doctor being consulted.

**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.