who we are

Vision:

Eliminate workplace diseases and injuries.

Mission:

In partnership with stakeholders, we ensure workplace safety, and care for workers.

About Workers' Compensation

Workers' compensation was first introduced to the Northwest Territories in 1953. Before this, employers were individually liable for incident costs through private sector insurance. The Workers' Compensation Board of the Northwest Territories was created in 1977. Upon Nunavut's creation in 1999, the Governments of Nunavut and the Northwest Territories agreed to maintain a shared board for the two Territories.

Workers' compensation is insurance for workers and employers. Employers pay assessments into a common fund and the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission (WSCC) pays benefits to injured workers or their dependants using this fund. Workers' compensation is the law, and no industries are exempt.

There are four key elements and founding principles of workers' compensation:

1. **No-fault Compensation -** Compensation is available to injured workers regardless of negligence on the part of workers, co-workers, or employers. In return, workers surrender their right to sue their employers.
2. **Collective Liability -** Employers share the cost of compensating injured workers.
3. **Independent Administration and Adjudication -** WSCC administers an insurance program in a way that provides equitable service and protection to both workers and employers. We operate at arm's length from the governments, shielded from political influence.
4. **Exclusive Jurisdiction -** WSCC decisions are not subject to court review; there is no access to the court system, unless a denial of natural justice occurs.

WSCC Legislation

On April 1, 2008, the *Workers' Compensation Acts* in both Territories changed to better reflect our organization's vision, mission, and values. This change created the WSCC of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut, furthering our commitment to eliminating workplace diseases and injuries.

The name reflects the continued role as a compensation board, but also focuses on safety and prevention, and positions us as a resource to employers and workers. In addition to the name change, the new *Acts* differ from the old ones in a number of ways. They are better organized and written in clear language to help Northerners find and understand the information they need. For a copy of the *Workers' Compensation Acts*, please visit our website at ***wscc.nt.ca*** or ***wscc.nu.ca***.