

## **NL Employers fed up with paying highest Worker's Compensation Insurance Premiums in the country for nearly two decades**

Will be calling for legislative change in the system at WHSCC Statutory Review, announced today

*--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

*January 16, 2012, St. John's, NL* – Worker's Compensation Employer Insurance Premiums in Newfoundland & Labrador are 36% higher than the Canadian average. This uncompetitive tax on labour results in downward pressure on wages and employment levels in this province. It also makes it harder for employers to compete for labour and to win contracts when bidding on projects against their counterparts in other provinces. The membership of the NL Employers' Council (NLEC) has repeatedly expressed frustration with these high insurance premiums, and the NLEC is pushing strongly for the Statutory Review of the Workplace Health, Safety & Compensation Commission (WHSCC), announced today, to focus on bringing the cost of the system in line with the Canadian average, and securing its financial sustainability.

“After two decades of paying the highest Worker's Compensation insurance premiums in the country, employers in this province are extremely frustrated,” says Richard Alexander, NLEC Executive Director. “With the current labour market and the pressure on wages in this province, employers will no longer stand by while the system they fund remains in last place. The current system has proven that it is incapable, under its current legislative structure, to provide benefits to workers while not disadvantaging employers. It is clear that fundamental legislative change is needed and in the coming weeks, throughout this review process, we will recommend changes that will cut costs to the system, while maintaining benefits to workers.”

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**Interview opportunities available.**

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