



NEWS RELEASE

“SLOW DOWN” ASKS FAMILY OF WILLIAM R. BENNETT BRIDGE WORKER

Kelowna, B.C., October 11, 2007 – On behalf of the more than 100 people working on the William R. Bennett Bridge project, WorkSafeBC, Emil Anderson Construction (EAC) Inc., the Ministry of Transportation, and the WRB Bridge Group have partnered to produce a “Slow Down” sign to be unveiled today.

“Our goal is to capture the attention of motorists that they are driving through someone’s workplace,” said WorkSafeBC’s Regional Director for the Interior and North, Trevor Alexander. “Workers’ proximity to traffic is extremely close and motorists need to be conscious of that.”

Every working day the traffic patterns of trucks, equipment, and workers accessing the bridge project changes. Traffic control persons work to implement the changes and keep both the motoring public and the workers moving through or into the site safely and efficiently.

Darlene Hoy, Traffic Control Supervisor, who is featured on the sign along with her nieces said, “I know my co-workers on the bridge appreciate this reminder to the traveling public and other workers who are driving transport vehicles to be respectful of our worksite.”

When completed in July of 2008, the five-lane William R. Bennett Bridge will replace the three-lane Okanagan Lake Bridge to accommodate the approximately 50,000 cars that use the bridge each day. It’s estimated that by 2017 more than 69,000 cars will be making the crossing each day. It is the largest road construction project in the Okanagan region.

“This project is being built by and for the residents of this region,” said Mike Jacobs, President and CEO, Emil Anderson Construction (EAC) Inc. “The safety of both our workers and the traveling public is critical to its successful completion.”

“The growth of our population and the popularity of our area have only increased the number of construction sites and traffic flow. This cautionary reminder is a great way to encourage safety on our roads,” said Sindi Hawkins, MLA Kelowna-Mission.

Serving more than two million workers and about 188,000 employers, WorkSafeBC is a provincial statutory agency governed by a Board of Directors and funded by employers. WorkSafeBC was born out of a compromise between BC’s workers and employers in 1917 where workers gave up the right to sue their employers or fellow workers for injuries on the job in return for a no-fault insurance program fully paid for by employers. WorkSafeBC is committed to a safe and healthy workplace and to providing return-to-work rehabilitation and legislated compensation benefits to workers injured as a result of their employment.

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