

the lack of worker, union, management and stakeholder involvement before the hearings is disappointing. It is reason enough to question any of these proposed amendments.

Guidelines for first aid are presently accessible to me as a registered nurse in the WCB regulations located at my worksite, on my unit. General requirements for first aid presently are the minimum an employer must supply. The proposed amendments suggest no requirements for first aid at work sites, and the employer decide what is needed. Since the start of this century, fatality rates in most industrialized workplaces have decreased substantially. This is a result partly of an occupational health effort and regulations like the first aid that provides immediate first aide to workers who are injured on the job. As physical demands of heavy manual labor and the toxicity of work environments appear to be decreasing, we should expect to see continued improvements in workplace health. Why is this not happening? Part of the answer may be that as the bulk

of work shifts from manufacturing to the service sectors, new physical and psychosocial demands for work are appearing, as a result in part to new technologies and demands for higher productivity associated with increasing intense global economic competition. We can't even begin to imagine what the first aid needs will be in our future.

Research suggests that the work place is not getting healthier.

So how does limiting First Aid regulations ensure proper first aid is provided to the health care sector? The elimination of the first aid regulations puts health care workers and all workers at risk. Remember the fatality rate of workers decreased due to regulations like first aid, and the employers needed guidelines and ongoing regulation to provide first aid in a safe and efficient way.

First aid for injured workers in health care is presently haphazard in my workplace. We are a twenty-four hour seven day a week operation, but the employer provides first aid on banking hours. For the after hours which is 1530-

0900) injured workers must report to an over crowded emergency department and wait their turn. There is no immediate first aide for injured health care workers at my facility. In recent years my workplace has been fined by WCB for failing to comply with the present regulations, now you want to repeal them? That doesn't make sense to me, and it implies that health care workers will be at greater risk. ~~cause~~ when the employer was being regulated, they didn't ^{couldn't} comply, and if you move these amendments, what would encourage the employer to comply to anything? They can't meet minimum standards now! How is repealing 33.1 going to ensure proper first aide for me and other health care professionals?

First aide should be immediate and have a clear process. In the large hospital I work at injured workers have long waits in emergency for their first aide treatment. I can't understand how repealing section 33 is going to ensure that health care workers have immediate access to first aide.

Health care is changing. Reorganizing is a monthly occurrence and programs like first aid are forgotten in the shuffle. This concerns me. If you leave a restructuring employer to decide what level of first aid is adequate – what will the safety level of health care workers look like? What are the occupational health strategies to improve health? How successful have they been? First aid programs are in the restructuring, redevelopment stage in health care and this repealing of the regulation will jeopardize health care workers. If there are first aid programs that are successful, wouldn't you want to regulate them outside of the employers; minimum requirement? How else do you build on and expand success? As budgets tighten, occupational health and safety is always on the chopping block – this ultimately endangers workers. I do not support the proposed amendments to the occupational health and safety regulations. The current regulations were designed after lengthy and thoughtful consultation with employers, workers and through many public hearings. The

current process is driven by a political agenda, not a health and safety one. I don't want to see the health and safety of workers of British Columbia compromised by lowering standards in the name of deregulation. Please keep first aid regulations for the safety of every health care worker in British Columbia.