

April 28, 2003

Amendment to the *Workers' Compensation Act* secures pension benefits for dependent children

Edmonton - The government has introduced amendments to the *Workers' Compensation Act* to ensure that dependent children of deceased workers will continue to receive pension benefits. Bill 38, sponsored by Clover Bar-Fort Saskatchewan MLA Rob Lougheed, applies specifically to cases where a deceased worker's dependent children do not live with the worker's surviving spouse or adult interdependent partner.

"This amendment ensures dependent children of deceased workers are treated fairly," stated Lougheed. "Once these changes come into effect, the WCB will be able to ensure pension benefits are paid to dependent children as well as to the surviving spouse or partner."

"Bill 38 is fair to everyone concerned," added Alberta Human Resources and Employment Minister Clint Dunford. "It corrects a situation in which payments made under the *Workers' Compensation Act* could only go to the surviving spouse or adult interdependent partner and recognizes that following the death of a parent, there may also be changes in living arrangements."

This amendment is similar to the WCB's current authority to direct benefits to the spouse or children of a worker who is not honouring the terms of an alimony or maintenance order.

For further information on WCB visit www.wcb.ab.ca .

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