

NLEC commissions study on effects of EI and Worker's Compensation on the workplace

Findings to be released at Fall Conference "The Disappearing Work Ethic: Fact or Fiction" on November 24th in St. John's

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October 29, 2009, St. John's, NL – The NL Employers' Council (NLEC) has enlisted Corporate Research Associates (CRA), an independent business research group based in Nova Scotia, to conduct a survey of NLEC members to study the effects of Employment Insurance and Workers Compensation on the workplace. This study is in response to concerns from employers regarding the effect Employment Insurance and Worker's Compensation benefits have on the work attitude and productivity of employees, employee turnover, absenteeism and competitiveness of businesses in this province.

Employees refusing work or asking for a layoff because they've reached the EI eligibility requirements is a common complaint heard by the organization from employers in this province. The study will determine how commonplace this scenario is amongst NLEC member organizations, along with determining other employer concerns with the EI system.

The study will also address employer concerns regarding the Worker's Compensation system in this province. While Newfoundland & Labrador has one of the best safety records in the country, the amount of time it takes for an injured employee to return to work continues to be among the highest of any province. The study will determine what impact this and other aspects of the WHSCC system are having on businesses.

This survey will help the NLEC identify how widespread these employer issues actually are and what impact the accessibility of these programs is having on the productivity and competitiveness of businesses in this province. This is the first study of its kind that the NLEC has initiated to gain primary data into the effects of such programs on employers. CRA will anonymously tabulate the results of the survey and President/CEO Don Mills will share the findings at the upcoming NLEC Fall Conference on November 24th.

"The NLEC is in no way questioning the importance or value of social programs in helping Newfoundlanders & Labradorians during times of need," say NLEC Executive Director Richard Alexander. "Social programs are necessary and valuable, not just to employees to but also to some employers, enabling them to maintain a connection with employees, particularly when it comes to seasonal work. However, employer concerns surrounding the accessibility of the systems and how they are affecting the productivity and competitiveness of businesses in Newfoundland & Labrador have forced us to look into these issues. This survey will enable us to quantify employer concerns and determine if and what further action is needed."

The results will be released publicly at the NLEC Fall Conference 2009 "The Disappearing Work Ethic: Fact or Fiction?" on November 24th & 25th in St. John's For more information on the conference and to register, employers should visit www.nlec.nf.ca.

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The NLEC provides advocacy, communication and training for employers in matters that affect the employment relationship.

Media contact: *Jaclyn Sullivan* (o) 368-6532, (c) 687-6552 or jsullivan@nlec.nf.ca