



Yellowknife  
Education  
District No. 1.

## Return to Work Program



March, 2011

Yellowknife Education District No. 1.

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## Policy Commitment Statement

Yellowknife Education District No. 1 (YK1) is committed to preventing workplace injuries and illnesses. In the event an employee is injured or ill due to a workplace incident, YK1 is committed to ensuring their successful transition back to work through a Return-to-Work (RTW) program.

If employees are unable to perform their regular full duties as a result of an illness or injury, we:

- take all reasonable steps to return the employee to their pre-injury/illness position in a timely manner; and
- return the employee to suitable work which is safe and consistent with their functional abilities, if they are unable to return to their pre-injury/illness position.

Employee and employer RTW roles and responsibilities are as follows:

Employees will:

- contact employer as soon as possible after the injury or illness occurs, and maintain communication;
- assist with identifying suitable and available employment;
- accept suitable employment when identified;
- provide updates on medical status and progress throughout recovery period;
- inform healthcare provider of available suitable work when identified; and
- provide any appropriate information requested to the employer and the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission during the return to work process.

The employer will:

- contact employee as soon as possible after the injury or illness occurs, and maintain communication;
- provide suitable and available employment;
- stay in touch with employee throughout the recovery period; and
- provide the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission with any appropriate information requested concerning the employee's return to work.

YK1 will develop individualized RTW plans for injured/ill employees which include processes for RTW recovery and ensure regular communication between employees and the employer. Communication can be in the form of in-person meetings, via telephone conversations, by emails, or written correspondence.

YK1 is committed to ensuring the success of their safe RTW program.

# Letter of Understanding

Between  
Yellowknife Education District No.1  
and  
The Northwest Territories Teachers' Association

**Purpose:** Return to Work Program

We believe that a workplace-based joint management/union approach, which will assist employees who become injured or ill to return to work, is the most effective strategy toward reducing the economic cost of disability and maintaining the employability of our employees.

We believe that this program can be implemented and be compatible with current statutory and collective agreement obligations.

Both parties agree to develop and implement an effective Joint Management / Union Return to Work Program which will return workers back to a productive capacity.

The Joint Health and Safety Committee will be the forum for discussing and implementing details of this program.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Yellowknife Education District No.1

\_\_\_\_\_  
NWTTA

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\*At the date of policy approval, the NWTTA had not signed the Letter of Understanding.

# Letter of Understanding

Between  
Yellowknife Education District No.1  
and  
The United Steeworkers (Local 8646)

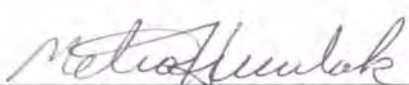
**Purpose:** Return to Work Program

We believe that a workplace-based joint management/union approach, which will assist employees who become injured or ill to return to work, is the most effective strategy toward reducing the economic cost of disability and maintaining the employability of our employees.

We believe that this program can be implemented and be compatible with current statutory and collective agreement obligations.

Both parties agree to develop and implement an effective Joint Management / Union Return to Work Program which will return workers back to a productive capacity.

The Joint Health and Safety Committee will be the forum for discussing and implementing details of this program.

  
Yellowknife Education District No.1

  
USW (Local 8646)

  
Date

## Program Objectives

### *Expected Outcomes*

- increased awareness of disability issues for all employees
- reduction in days lost due to absences from injuries and illnesses
- fair and consistent process for employees returning to work
- compliance with current and future legislative obligations
- reduce workplace safety and insurance costs

## **Return to Work Program Implementation Plan**

- 1) Assign responsibility for the program.
- 2) Write “Roles and Responsibilities” and communicate it to all employees.
- 3) Meet regularly to manage Return to Work Program.
- 4) Evaluate Program Objectives quarterly / annually.

## **Return to Work Plan Statement of Eligibility and Exit Criteria**

### ***Eligibility Criteria into RTW Process***

Employees who have injuries or illnesses resulting from the workplace.  
(This may include employees who have illnesses or injuries resulting from outside of the workplace.)

The RTW process begins immediately after the injury or illness occurs.

### ***Exit Criteria from the RTW Process***

- Return to regular job at full capacity.
- Return to full functional capacity supported by functional ability information.
- Unable to identify suitable, available work.
- Permanent placement in alternative work.



## **Return to Work Plan Process Procedures**

### ***Employee***

- Immediately report all accidents and illnesses and obtain necessary first aid and/or health care. If the accident or illness is work-related, it is the employee's responsibility to file a WSCC Claim - Worker's Report of Injury (see Appendix A) and to provide a copy of the Injury Report to his/her supervisor, so that he/she can complete the WSCC – Employer's Report of Injury (see Appendix B)
- Sign Medical Release & Functional Capabilities Form to consent to disclosure of functional abilities (FA) information, obtain Functional Abilities Timely Return to Work (see Appendix C) form from company and take to Health Care Practitioner to complete. Return completed functional abilities form to Yellowknife Education District No.1.
- Assist Yellowknife Education District No.1 to identify suitable work consistent with their functional abilities.
- Accept suitable employment when identified.
- Provide updates on medical status and progress throughout recovery period.
- Inform healthcare provider of available suitable work when identified
- Co-operate in their RTW and provide appropriate information requested to the Yellowknife Education District No.1 and WSCC during the return to work process.

### ***Employer***

- Complete the WSCC - Employer's Report of Injury within 3 days of learning of a reported accident in the workplace. This should be completed by the employee's supervisor, faxed to WSCC and a copy should be sent to personnel to be placed on the employee's file.
- Contact the employee as soon as possible after the injury or illness occurs, and maintain communication.
- Review completed Functional Abilities form with employee to identify suitable work.
- Write an RTW Plan in co-operation with the employee and monitor the plan.
- Communicate with employee regularly throughout recovery period.
- Provide the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission with any appropriate information requested concerning the employee's return to work

### **Assignment of Other Roles & Responsibilities:**

Return to Work Coordinator: the role of the RTW Coordinator has been assigned to the Manager, Human Resources.

Return to Work Committee: committee members will be vetted through the Occupational Health & Safety Committee. The make-up of the committee will depend on the employee that is being assisted in Returning to Work. (A union representative, the supervisor, an OHSC member, a member of the Sr. Management Team and the RTW Coordinator will make up each committee).

## **Return to Work Plan Dispute Resolution Mechanism**

Whenever there is a dispute between Yellowknife Education District No.1 and the employee the following steps will be taken:

1. Review the RTW Plan, where an error has been made, reasonable steps will be taken by Yellowknife Education District No.1 to correct the error.
2. If the dispute is regarding functional ability / suitability of work match:
  - a) Obtain an updated Functional Abilities Timely Return to Work form, and review the suitability of available work.
  - b) If necessary, where the recovery is not progressing as anticipated, refer the employee to a Health Care Practitioner paid for by Yellowknife Education District No.1 to conduct a more comprehensive functional abilities evaluation.
3. Where the dispute cannot be resolved, refer the matter to the WSCC for assistance from a RTW Mediator for determination of the dispute.

## Develop Individual Return to Work Plans

A return to work plan lays out the steps that need to be taken to return an employee to his or her pre-injury job.

In the ideal situation, the plan is developed jointly by the injured employee, the employee's supervisor, and if applicable, the return to work program manager (who coordinates the process), the worker's health care provider (through provision of restrictions), and the union representative, (if applicable). Supervisors from other areas or staff from the WSCC can assist in the process when the need arises. A return to work plan includes the following:

- **The goals of the plan.**  
These goals set out milestones for the worker to achieve until he or she reaches the final goal: a return to pre-injury employment.
- **The actions required to achieve these goals.**  
This includes the responsibilities of the worker, the supervisor, or manager, and any co-workers who will be assisting the worker.
- **Time frames for achieving these goals.**  
These will provide a yardstick to measure the employee's progress. It is important that the plan has a beginning and an end, as graduated work is a means to achieve a return to pre-injury work, and is not an end in itself. Make sure to include a clear definition of what is considered progress (e.g., the employee can work five hours a day by week three, or the worker can assume tasks by week five).
- **Health care needs.**  
If, for example, the worker is going to attend health or medical appointments during working hours, these visits must be coordinated with the requirements of the proposed return to work plan. Staff that will be impacted by these health care needs will also need to be advised (with the worker's permission).

The following pages contain examples of the kinds of formats you can develop for your return to work plan.

**SAMPLE #1**

**Return to Work Plan**

RETURN TO WORK PLAN		
NAME:		DATE:
Goal: Return to regular duties		START DATE:
		COMPLETION DATE:
Limitations:		
Accommodation(s):		
Hours of work:		
Location of work:		
Supervisor:		
DATE	DUTIES	FOLLOW-UP

Employee Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Sample #2

### Return to Work Plan

---

Developed: *(date)*

Revised: *(date)*

---

The following Return to Work Plan is in effect starting   *(date)*  . Any deviation to the plan must be approved by RTW Coordinator and supported with medical documentation.

The parties agree to the following Return to Work Plan for *(employee name)*.

#### Current Medical or Functional Restrictions / Limitations

---

Duration – *(# of weeks or months)*

Date	Return to Work
	Graduated Hours (1 <sup>st</sup> week)
	Graduated Hours (2 <sup>nd</sup> week)
	Graduated Hours (3 <sup>rd</sup> week) etc.
	Other Restrictions & Limitations:

#### Temporary Modified Job:

---

From Date to Date:

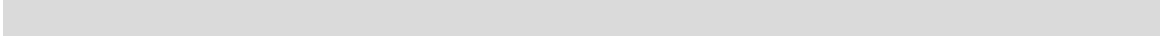
*List modified job duties.*

Scheduled Plan Reviews:

*Date:*

**Scheduled Plan Completion:**

*Date:*



\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature: RTW Coordinator**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

*I have reviewed this letter, understand and agree to the terms as laid out. I will not work in excess of these restrictions and understand that any changes to this plan must be approved prior to implementation:*

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature: Employee**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

**Appendix A**

[Worker's Report of Incident CS001 1004.pdf](#)

**Appendix B**

[WCB Employers Report of Accident.pdf](#)

**Appendix C**

[Functional Abilities Form -yk1.pdf](#)



If a worker is injured at work, you need to complete this form so that the claim can proceed.

<b>Employer Information</b>			Email Address		
1. Business Name					
2. Address			Community		Postal Code
3. Telephone (include area code)			4. Worker's Supervisor's Name?		

<b>Worker Information</b>					
5. Last Name			6. First Name		
7. Mailing Address			Community		Postal Code
8. Residential Address			9. Date of Birth	YY	MM
11. Telephone (include area code)			12. Social Insurance Number		10. <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female
14. Number of Dependants			15. Worker's Occupation		13. <input type="checkbox"/> Single <input type="checkbox"/> Married <input type="checkbox"/> Common-law <input type="checkbox"/> Widowed <input type="checkbox"/> Divorced
17. What province or territory was the worker hired in?			16. Is a job description available?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
18. Is the worker a subcontractor? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			19. Is the worker an owner or operator? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		

<b>Accident Details</b>					
20. Place of Accident – Name of City/Town, Province/Territory					
21. Was the worker on the employer's premises when the accident occurred? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No					
22. Accident Date			Time		23. Date first reported to employer
Y/	M/	D/	AM / PM	Y/	M/
24. Date first disabled from work?			Time		25. Time worker commenced work on the day of the accident?
Y/	M/	D/	AM / PM	AM / PM	Time
26. Does the worker have a job to return to? If no, explain. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No					
27. Was first aid rendered? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, when? By whom?					
28. Name and address of attending Health Care Professional					

**Complete All Questions Below – (Give Full Explanation – attach extra sheets if necessary)**

29. Were the worker's actions at the time of injury for the purpose of your business? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No					
30. Is the activity part of the worker's regular work? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes explain			31. Are you satisfied the incident occurred as reported? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes explain		
32. Please describe the accident in as much detail as possible. Include where it took place, what the worker was doing at the time of injury, what equipment was being used, and whether gas, chemicals or extreme temperatures were involved. Was language a contributing factor? (attach sheet if necessary)					
33. What part of the worker's body was injured? (left/right side, hand, eye, back, etc.) What type of injury did they experience? (sprain, bruise, etc.)					
34. Was anyone not employed by you involved in the accident? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, explain.					
35. Was the worker disabled longer than the date of the accident? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No					
36. If no time loss, is the worker performing modified duties? If yes, provide list of duties.					
37. Is light duty available? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			If yes, when?		YY
38. Has the worker been advised of light duties? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			If yes, when?		YY
					MM
					DD
39. Please supply a list of duties available. (attach sheet if necessary)					

**IF THE WORKER WAS DISABLED LONGER THAN THE DATE OF THE ACCIDENT, PLEASE CONTINUE.  
IF NOT, PLEASE SIGN AT THE BOTTOM OF THE NEXT PAGE.**







**Worker's Full Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E – Employment Category**

34. Worker's Type of Employment	A) <b>Permanent</b> <i>Type of Permanent Employment</i> - <input type="checkbox"/> Term ( <i>Over 1 year</i> ) <input type="checkbox"/> Full / Part time Permanent <input type="checkbox"/> Apprentice <input type="checkbox"/> Relief <input type="checkbox"/> Other	B) <b>Non - Permanent</b> <i>Type of Non-Permanent Employment</i> - <input type="checkbox"/> Term ( <i>Under 1 year</i> ) <input type="checkbox"/> Seasonal <input type="checkbox"/> Summer Student <input type="checkbox"/> Casual <input type="checkbox"/> Apprentice
35. Is the job subject to seasonal layoffs? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	36. Is the job subject to lack of work layoffs? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
37. First day of hire   YY   MM   DD		

**F – Schedule Information** (*Please complete all questions that apply*)

38. Number of days on _____ Number of days off _____	39. Hours per Shift / Day _____	40. Hours per Rotation _____
41. Please circle days on for one full rotation: M T W T F S S M T W T F S S M T W T F S S M T W T F S S		
42. Date rotation started   YY   MM   DD        Date rotation ends   YY   MM   DD		

**If NO WORK WAS MISSED and NO CHANGE to duties or pay, proceed to bottom of page and sign, date, and submit this report. If WORK WAS MISSED or if duties or pay have been MODIFIED, please answer ALL questions on this form.**

**G – Wage Information** (*Please complete all questions*)

43. What is your hourly rate of pay? _____ / hr	What is your annual gross earnings? _____
<i>If you are paid other than hourly or on salary please attach an explanation</i>	
44. Do you receive any other benefits? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> (eg: Vacation pay, Northern Allowance, Bonus)	<b>If yes, explain in detail with amounts or averages:</b>
45. Do you regularly work or get paid for overtime? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
46. Provide an estimate of regular overtime hours _____ / day week month	47. What is your overtime rate? _____ / hr
48. Are you being paid for lost time? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
49. Do you have a second job? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If yes, have you missed time from this job due to your injury? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> <i>(If you have more than one other employer please list all employers and their contact information)</i>	
Name of second employer: _____	Contact name and phone: _____

**WORKER'S CONSENT**

I hereby claim compensation for work-related injuries or disease.

**Information Sharing-** I understand that the above information about me will be used by the WSCC for the sole purpose of conducting an investigation into this claim. I also understand that the WSCC will need to gather more information about my work incident and medical and work history to administer my claim. For that specific purpose only, some personal information may have to be disclosed to employers, medical personnel and other relevant third parties.

**I authorize the WSCC to provide and gather such information from all necessary sources, including hospital and doctors' records, and employer records.**

**Information Accuracy-** I understand that incomplete information from me may delay my claim, and that untrue information from me is unlawful.

**I declare the information above is true and accurate. I understand it may be a criminal offence to make a false claim, or to work and earn income while receiving workers' compensation without telling the WSCC.**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Witness: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

For more information on our Legislation and Policies, please visit our Website  
[www.wsc.nt.ca](http://www.wsc.nt.ca) • [www.wsc.nu.ca](http://www.wsc.nu.ca)

If you would like assistance filling in this form, or more information, please contact one of our offices listed below

Head Office: Box 8888 • Yellowknife, NT X1A 2R3 • Telephone: (867) 920-3888 • Toll Free: 1-800-661-0792 • Fax: (867) 873-4596 • Toll Free Fax: 1-866-277-3677

Box 669 • Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0 • Telephone: (867) 979-8500 • Toll Free: 1-877-404-4407 • Fax: (867) 979-8531 • Toll Free Fax: 1-866-979-8501

[www.wsc.nt.ca](http://www.wsc.nt.ca) or [www.wsc.nu.ca](http://www.wsc.nu.ca)



## Functional Abilities Form

### To be completed by Employee:

Patient Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Medical Diagnosis: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Assessment: \_\_\_\_\_

By signing below, I am authorizing any health professional who treats me to provide me and my employer with information about my functional abilities on this form.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Date

### To be completed by Health Professional:

#### SECTION A

Please check one box:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Patient is capable of returning to work with <b>NO RESTRICTIONS</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Patient is capable of returning to work <b>WITH RESTRICTIONS</b> . Complete Sections <b>B and C</b> .
<input type="checkbox"/>	Patient is physically unable to return to work at this time. Complete <b>Section C</b> .

#### SECTION B

1. Please indicate **Abilities** that apply, including additional details in section 3:

Walking:		Standing:		Sitting:		Lifting from floor to waist:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Full Abilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	Full Abilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	Full Abilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	Full Abilities
<input type="checkbox"/>	Up to 100 meters	<input type="checkbox"/>	Up to 15 minutes	<input type="checkbox"/>	Up to 30 minutes	<input type="checkbox"/>	Up to 5 kgs
<input type="checkbox"/>	100 to 200 meters	<input type="checkbox"/>	15 – 30 minutes	<input type="checkbox"/>	30 minutes – 1 hr	<input type="checkbox"/>	5-10 kgs
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (specify)

Lifting from waist to shoulder:		Stair Climbing:		Ladder climbing:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Full Abilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	Full Abilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	Full Abilities
<input type="checkbox"/>	Up to 5 kgs	<input type="checkbox"/>	Up to 5 steps	<input type="checkbox"/>	1-3 steps
<input type="checkbox"/>	5-10 kgs	<input type="checkbox"/>	5 -10 steps	<input type="checkbox"/>	4 - 6 steps
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (specify)



## Functional Abilities Form

2. Please indicate **Restrictions** that apply, include additional details in section 3:

Bending/twisting repetitive movement of (please specify):

Work at or above shoulder activity:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Chemical exposure to:

Environmental exposure to: (e.g. heat, cold, noise or scents)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Limited use of hands (s):

Limited pushing/pulling with

Exposure to vibration:

Left		Right
	Gripping	
	Pinching	
	Other (please specify)	

	Left Arm
	Right arm
	Other (please specify)

	Whole body
	Hand/arm

Operating motorized equipment: (e.g. forklift)

Potential side effects from medications: (please specify)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Additional Comments on **Abilities and/or Restrictions**:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. From the date of this assessment, the above **Abilities and/or Restrictions** will apply for approximately:

1 – 2 days  3 – 7 days  8 – 14 days  14 - 28 days  28 + days

