

For Immediate Release – September 22nd, 2017

New Brunswick's Trucking Industry Cannot Sustain WorkSafe New Brunswick's 2018 Average Assessment Rate Increase

Dieppe, NB – WorkSafeNB's Board of Directors held another stakeholder meeting last Wednesday, September 20, at the Four Points by Sheraton in Moncton. Yet again, more bad news was shared with attendees: an expected 32% to 51% increase in rates.

The Board of Directors offered very little information on how they will be able to manage and control these rate increases. The government will need to step in and make some legislative changes because the Government of New Brunswick gives the Worker's Compensation Appeals Tribunal all the power to make any changes. Essentially, the Board can propose changes, but that's it.

Jean-Marc Picard, Executive Director of the Atlantic Provinces Trucking Association says, "For our members, the rate hike obviously represents an immense increase in costs that we can't continue to absorb. Along with Fuel increases, carbon pricing and higher than ever equipment costs, we are barely keeping our heads above water".

Businesses don't know where to turn because neither the Government nor the board of WorkSafeNB is offering solutions to resolve the issue. This is a hard blow to all businesses in New Brunswick, with no end in sight of when the bleeding will stop.

Picard adds "some of our members have excellent safety records and world class safety programs for their employees but their rates are increasing. The system is failing us and it needs to be fixed ASAP. We pay and trust the Government and WorkSafeNB to provide and manage a fair and well-balanced system for employees and employers of NB and right now that is not happening."

About APTA

The APTA is the trusted and effective voice of the road transport industry in Atlantic Canada. With more than 320 members (commercial carriers, brokers, owner-operators and associated trades), we are an effective lobby and advocacy organization dedicated to the continued growth and strength of our industry.

-30-

Media Contact:

Jean-Marc Picard
Executive Director
Atlantic Provinces Trucking Association
jmpicard@apta.ca | 506-855-2782 | 506-875-2854