

# In Focus

The Newsletter of the Workplace Safety and Insurance Appeals Tribunal

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## Early Resolution Stream

The Tribunal's Early Resolution (mediation) project continues to evolve.

The Appeal Application package now includes an Early Resolution (ER) insert. Previously, most ER cases were selected by Tribunal staff. Parties are now able to **request** mediation in any entitlement appeal, **except** for claims for benefits related to occupational disease. However, if only one party is participating in an appeal, the Tribunal may decide that the appeal is not suitable for mediation. Inclusion in the ER stream is also subject to the right of any participating party to object to the process.

There are two other recent changes worth noting. First, the former Appeals Resolution Officers (AROs) are now known as Early Resolution Officers (EROs). This is intended to minimize any confusion with the final level of decision at the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board. Secondly, the ERO now has the ability to recommend to the ER Vice-Chair that a case which is not successfully mediated be decided in a written hearing process, whether or not the parties consent to a written hearing.

Details of these changes, and copies of the ER insert, are available from the Tribunal Counsel Office.

## Discussion Papers

The Tribunal Library has the following new discussion papers:

*Cervical disc disease. Neck pain and related symptoms* (April 1997) by Dr. J.F.R. Fleming (13p).  
Cost: \$4.60 plus G.S.T.  
[Note: This replaces the 1990 discussion paper on cervical disc disease by Dr. Gertzbein.]

*Pes Planus (Flat Foot)*. Prepared for the Tribunal by Dr. Gordon Hunter (7p).  
Cost: \$3.40 plus G.S.T.

The cost shown is the charge for ordering the items. Alternatively, you can photocopy these discussion papers at the Library for 15¢ per page.

## Practice Directions in WSIAT Reporter

The Tribunal is again printing its Practice Directions in the *WSIAT Reporter*.

The Practice Directions, as revised on January 2, 1998, to reflect changes arising from the coming into force of the *Workplace Safety and Insurance Act, 1997*, can be found in Volume 44 of the Reporter.

Future volumes of the Reporter will keep you updated about any amendments or revisions to the Practice Directions.

# Tribunal Members

The following members were recently reappointed:

## Part-time Vice-Chairs

- **Judith A. Alexander**  
effective January 31, 1998
- **Lois Jennifer Bradley**  
effective January 31, 1998
- **Peter K. Libman**  
effective February 14, 1998
- **Ellen Mole**  
effective January 31, 1998
- **Elaine Newman**  
effective March 16, 1998
- **Audrey Renault**  
effective January 31, 1998

## Full-time Employer Members

- **Pauline Barbeau**  
effective January 1, 1998
- **Martin Meslin**  
effective January 1, 1998

## Full-time Worker Members

- **James Alfred Crocker**  
effective January 1, 1998
- **Faith Jackson**  
effective January 1, 1998
- **Maurice Robillard**  
effective January 1, 1998

## Part-time Employer Members

- **Robert Apsey**  
effective December 11, 1997
- **Susan Copeland**  
effective January 1, 1998
- **Joseph J. Donaldson**  
effective January 1, 1998
- **Carole Ann Fay**  
effective January 1, 1998
- **Barbara Young**  
effective February 17, 1998

## Part-time Worker Members

- **David B. Beattie**  
effective December 11, 1997
- **Diane Besner**  
effective January 13, 1998
- **Patti J. Fuhrman-Thompson**  
effective January 1, 1998
- **Raymond John Lebert**  
effective January 1, 1998
- **Fortunato Rao**  
effective February 11, 1998

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