



WSIAT

# In Focus

June 2006

Vol. 17, No. 1

The Newsletter of the Workplace Safety and Insurance Appeals Tribunal

## Tribunal Chair Ian Strachan Recipient of 2006 Ron Ellis Award

The Tribunal is pleased to announce that Tribunal Chair, Ian Strachan, has been named the recipient of the eighth annual Ron Ellis Award. The Award is presented annually to recognize exceptional contributions and achievements in the field of workers' compensation law and is co-sponsored by Lexis Nexis™ Canada and the Ontario Bar Association. Speakers at the evening event will include: The Hon. Steve Peters, Minister of Labour; Ron Ellis; David Brady, Hicks Morley Hamilton Stewart Storie LLP; and Alec Farquhar, Director, Occupational Health and Safety Branch, Ministry of Labour. The evening will be hosted by Dan Revington, General Counsel, WSIAT. The award dinner will be held June 8, 2006 in Toronto.

## Staff Activities

In April, Ian Strachan, Tribunal Chair, was a panel speaker at a dinner meeting hosted by the OBA's Administrative Law section and the Workers' Compensation Section. The topic for the Panel was "Taking the Pulse of Ontario's Administrative Justice System". Also in April, Carole Prest, Counsel to the Chair, spoke at an Administrative Law continuing education session organized by the Canadian Institute. The topic of her presentation was "Rules, Policies and Guidelines".

In May, Dan Revington, General Counsel, was a co-chair for an OBA Workers' Compensation Section Continuing Legal Education Day. The presentations for the day focused on the issue of "When is an accident really an 'accident'?"

## WSIAT Launches New Look Web Site

On May 15th, the Tribunal launched its new look public web site at: [www.wsiat.on.ca](http://www.wsiat.on.ca), bringing its clients easy access to an increased range of services and information resources. The new cleaner looking design offers easier navigation as well as more direct access to areas that our clients most want to visit. The fully searchable site includes access to a new, online WSIAT Reporter, which will replace the paper version. It also includes features such as an online introduction to WSIAT that offers both text and voiceover content, as well as an RSS (Really Simple Syndication) feed that provides Tribunal news and noteworthy decisions.

*We hope that our clients will find the enhanced web site useful in meeting their WSIAT resource and information needs, and we welcome feedback from users at: [webmaster@wst.gov.on.ca](mailto:webmaster@wst.gov.on.ca)*

## TRIBUNAL MEMBERS

Since the last issue of WSIAT In Focus (November 2005), **Colleen L. Dempsey**, **Mark Gannage**, **Tom Mitchinson** and **Jasbir Parmar** were appointed part-time Vice-Chairs, and **Elaine Tracey** was appointed a part-time Member.

During this period, **Mel Crystal**, **John Moore**, **Sean Ryan** and **Eleanor Smith** were reappointed as full-time Vice-Chairs; **Bruce Alexander**, a part-time Vice-Chair; **Brian Wheeler**, a full-time Member; and **Doug Jago** and **Bob Sherwood**, part-time Members.

## News from the Information Services Group

By the time this newsletter goes to press, the new Workplace Safety and Insurance Appeals Tribunal website will have been launched bringing our stakeholders increased access to Tribunal information. The Tribunal website is one of many projects being undertaken by the Tribunal to make information more accessible to our stakeholders.

The Tribunal is now sending its current decisions to CanLII – the web-based database of Canadian decisions and statutes. Users can now search full-text on the Tribunal's 2006 decisions. The Tribunal will be working with CanLII to add content from previous years. CanLII is funded by the Canadian Federation of Law Societies and access is free to the public – <http://www.canlii.org>. CanLII updates its database holdings on a regular basis, so the case law is current. The Tribunal continues to look for ways to improve public access to its caselaw and process information.

CanLII  
Canadian Legal Information Institute

Ontario >>

**Ontario Workplace Safety and Insurance Appeals Tribunal**  
Official Website: <http://www.wsiat.on.ca/>

This collection contains decisions made publicly available as of June 17, 2005.  
When possible, prior decisions have also been included.

Total number of decisions to date: 469; 468 English and 1 French.  
Last Update: May 26, 2006.

Note: CanLII generally publishes decisions within 24 to 48 hours following public availability.

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### CanLII's W.S.I.A.T. Search

*If you have questions or comments about the new website, or any of our projects, please contact the Information Services Director at [Alison.colvin@wst.gov.on.ca](mailto:Alison.colvin@wst.gov.on.ca).*

## W.S.I.A.T. Reporter Online Now

The W.S.I.A.T. Reporter is now available free on the internet through the Tribunal's web site.

The Tribunal started publishing the Reporter in 1988, as the first reporting service in Ontario dedicated exclusively to workers' compensation. It contains the full text of selected decisions of the Tribunal, together with headnotes, indexes and reference material, as well as certain other resources such as Tribunal practice directions. Volume 74, which was released in January 2006, was the last printed volume of the Reporter.

Starting now with Volume 75, the Reporter is an electronic publication with free access to everyone. Go ahead and check it out, bookmark it, and even set up an RSS feed to receive news from the Tribunal, including notice of future volumes of the Reporter and other enhancements.

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