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# News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**May 25, 2006**

## **PLANNING UNDERWAY TO IMPROVE WORKPLACE SAFETY**

**VANCOUVER, B.C.** – A new workplace health safety facility is being developed thanks to a \$47,000 investment from Western Economic Diversification Canada. The new *Global Centre of Excellence for Workplace Health Sciences* will train new occupational health and safety workers while providing a resource centre on workplace health, safety and return to work.

“While Canada is facing its own challenges in terms of workplace fatalities, we are also developing innovative return-to-work and disability management strategies that are being adopted worldwide,” said James Lunney, Member of Parliament for Nanaimo Alberni, on behalf of the Honourable Carol Skelton, Minister of National Revenue and Western Economic Diversification. “This facility will secure Canada’s place as a worldwide leader while striving to minimize the devastating impact of workplace injuries on workers and their families.”

“In light of the increasing fatality and severe injury rate across Canada, the Canadian Labour Congress strongly endorses this initiative as a way of demonstrating leadership by Canadian workers, employers and governments in tackling the unacceptably high and rising rate of death and injuries in Canada and around the world,” said Hassan Yussuff, Secretary Treasurer, Canadian Labour Congress.

“Occupational health and safety, along with effective return to work following an injury are priority areas to Weyerhaeuser,” said Mike Rushby, Vice President, Human Resources, Weyerhaeuser Company, Vancouver. “We remain firmly committed in supporting the realization of this vision that this world centre of disability management and safety excellence will have in Canada and beyond.”

The funding will allow the National Institute of Disability Management and Research to develop a business strategy to determine workplace safety and occupational education priorities, through a national consensus from key employer, labour, and other government organizations. This new Centre of Excellence, a collaborative venture between key employer, labour and government organizations, will provide leading edge innovation in occupational health and safety and disability management education and research.

Western Economic Diversification Canada is the federal department mandated to support economic diversification in communities across Western Canada.

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CONTACT:**

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