

**WORKERS' COMPENSATION APPEAL TRIBUNAL (WCAT)
QUARTERLY REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED MARCH 31, 2016**

WCAT's mandate is to decide appeals brought by workers and employers from decisions of the Workers' Compensation Board, operating as WorkSafeBC (the Board). WCAT decides compensation, assessment, and prevention appeals from decisions of the Review Division of the Board. We also decide direct appeals from Board decisions regarding discriminatory action complaints, and compensation claim reopenings by application, as well as applications for certificates to the Court.

As of March 31, 2016, our total active inventory was 2,360* appeals. The vast majority of appeals are compensation appeals.

During the first quarter of 2016, we made decisions on the merits of 886 appeals and made summary decisions on a further 236 appeals that were rejected, dismissed, withdrawn, or suspended. An appeal may raise numerous issues and WCAT may allow, allow in part, or deny the appeal on each issue. During the quarter, we decided 1,119 issues.

When WCAT makes a decision on the merits of an appeal, the decision under appeal may be varied, confirmed, or cancelled by WCAT. "Vary" means that WCAT varied the previous decision in whole or in part. Accordingly, whether WCAT has fully granted the remedies requested by the appellant on all issues arising under the appeal or merely changed a minor aspect of the previous decision, the decision is considered to have been "varied." "Confirm" means that WCAT agreed with all aspects of the previous decision. "Cancel" means that WCAT set aside the previous decision without a new or changed decision being provided in its place.

During the quarter, WCAT confirmed 53% of the decisions under appeal and varied 47%. In deciding the issues rising out of those appeals, WCAT allowed the appeals on 35% of the issues, allowed them in part on 7% and denied them on 58%. WCAT cancelled 2 decisions.

The graphs and tables usually attached that contain further statistical information are not available this quarter due to our transition to a new case management system.

Caroline Berkey, Chair

*The data reported on the active inventory and decisions on the merits of appeals were adjusted in March 2017 to reflect updated reporting requirements and migration to a new case management system.