

# FACT SHEET ON WCB REGULATION

Proposed regulation covers only vascular hollow bore needles. It needs to cover all medical sharp devices using the best device.

- FACT** ONLY 30% of injuries are from vascular needles.
- FACT** 70% of injuries are from intramuscular needles, subcutaneous needles, scalpels, sutures, and other medical sharps. <sup>2</sup>
- FACT** Safety needles are effective in reducing overall costs and actually save money for organizations that have implemented them. <sup>1</sup>
- FACT** If a worker has an injury with time loss the average cost to WCB is \$6000, not including prophylactic drugs;  
The cost to the worker is unimaginable.
- FACT** Even if a worker doesn't contract a transmitted disease they will become sick and have time loss from the prophylactic drugs.
- FACT** There are many diseases transmitted by blood and body fluids (over 33 including HIV, Hepatitis B and C).
- FACT** One in Five injuries in the hospital did not occur to the original user of the sharps implement.
- FACT** 70% of injuries from needles sticks occur to nurses. <sup>1</sup>
- FACT** 81.4% of percutaneous injuries are not reported by nurses or patient care attendants. <sup>1</sup>
- FACT** 23.9% of nurses reported having a needle stick injury in the last year. <sup>1</sup>
- FACT** The Provincial Health Services Authority uses over 3 million needles per year.



<sup>1</sup> OHSAHBC (2005). Needle stick injuries in BC Health Care Workers; Response to Ministry of Health Request, November 16, 2005.

<sup>2</sup> Jagger, J & Perry, J. (2004). Preventing Occupational Exposures to Bloodborne Pathogens. International Healthcare Worker Center, University of Virginia.