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I feel that as a northern resident I have been treated unfairly by the Workers Compensation Board, particularly in Vocational Rehabilitation.

In 1998 I lost my eye in a workplace injury and received WCB for approx 2 ½ years. At the time of my injury I was employed as a diamond driller earning \$80,000 -90,000 per year. Before that I worked as a driller's helper for 7-8 years.

After my injury I expressed a desire to be trained as a heavy equipment operator but was refused by the WCB because of my limited educational background and interests. I have a grade 12 education & have many interests in mechanics and machine operating because I grew up on a farm. They also determined that employment possibilities in The Pas are somewhat limited in any vocation.

I feel the labour market information used to make a determination is not adequate. There are employment opportunities here which I could have been re-trained for. For example Tolko, Hudson Bay Railway, Dept. of Highways, Town of The Pas, Kelsey School Division, Nor-Man Regional Health to name a few. I thin WCB needs to use more accurate and up-to-date labour market information about the north and particularly, by community. This should be done by locating a counselor in the north who is familiar with the jobs and economy of the north.

Signed