

each province. Some provinces will say that the incident must be reported within three days, and certainly not longer than three months, or some such other period. However, occasionally it happens through error or misunderstanding that it does not get reported in time.

We recently had a case of a native Indian on a reserve in Cold Lake, Alberta, I think it was, who was killed over a year ago in the course of his employment as a special R.C.M.P. constable. No one at the time thought that he would be entitled to workmen's compensation because he was a native Indian and because of some other factors. However, it finally came to our attention and we said that his dependents should not be denied their entitlement and we looked into it. This has been a very long case, but very

recently we have, with the co-operation of the Alberta Workmen's Compensation Board, had the claim accepted, and the deceased's widow and children are now going to start drawing workmen's compensation benefits. It is 15 months since the occurrence. So while normally there is a time limit, nevertheless in exceptional cases you can always have a case accepted if it is a good one.

We always try to make very very sure that anybody who has any entitlements under this act gets everything that the statute permits.

**The Chairman:** Are there any other questions? Are you ready to report the bill without amendment?

**Hon. Senators:** Agreed.

The committee adjourned.

...the board facilities whether or not there is a valid appeal, and they will reconsider and sometimes award a claim which they feel should be denied, or they might award a previous award that was not correct. This can go on indefinitely, unfortunately. We have had claims continued under appeal for 20 years. One wonders sometimes, but a claim, theoretically, is never closed if any claimant at any time can bring forward any new evidence indicating that he has an aggravation or that the condition was not there when he took his employment and now there is something medical or- hence, we are always willing to listen again.

**Senator Grosart:** Would you say in general that the rights and the recourse of the claimant under this act are roughly the same as under the various industrial compensation acts?

**Mr. Currie:** Their rights and their entitlements are the same. They are certainly no less, and in fact under the new amendments proposed here they are even better.

**Senator Hoebuck:** You have no statute of limitations when a claim has once been registered, but I presume you have some limitations on how long a person can wait before he registers a claim, have you not?

**Mr. Currie:** Yes. We tend to comply, as a matter of course, with the requirements in

...companies are included in it. Mr. Currie: Correct. My answer, I am sorry, was related only to the effect of these amendments. I thought that was the question. There are no few cases of the type that may be covered under these amendments that I would guess there would not be six per cent at the most.

**Senator Blais:** I see. It refers to this only. **Mr. Currie:** Quite so, absolutely. We have cases that cost more than \$50,000 per one incident.

**Senator Blais:** Right. **The Chairman:** Are there any other questions?

**Senator Grosart:** Is there an appeal board which hears these claims? How is a claim disputed or fought out if that way?

**Mr. Currie:** Any claim arising out of the provisions of the Government Employees Compensation Act, whether in Canada or abroad, is referred to my branch in the first instance. And our experienced claims people review it as to its acceptability. Was it an employee? Did it appear to arise out of and in the course of his employment? Is it part of the Government of Canada that is covered by the act, and so on? There are some general questions. If we are satisfied that it appears to be an acceptable type of claim, then we refer it to the provincial Workmen's Compensation Board of the province where the man is usually employed. They in turn make any