

SFU BUSINESS

Alumni Profile



Dave Anderson

**President & CEO,
Workers' Compensation Board of BC
EMBA '85**

More than forty years ago, Dave Anderson was a construction worker helping to build the new SFU campus in Burnaby. Today, as president and CEO of the Workers' Compensation Board of B.C., he has come full circle, overseeing the \$10 billion organization that ensures safe labour practices for such workers.

During his early career years, Dave spent 14 years at Sears, then enrolled in the SFU Executive MBA program to acquire the skills and confidence he needed to move his career forward. That led to a position as CEO of the Liquor Distribution Board of B.C., where he found his previous course work in economics and strategic policy particularly useful in managing negotiations between provinces and countries during the early days of the North American Free Trade Agreement.

He next joined The Keg Restaurants as vice-president commercial, then became chief operating officer for the Canadian market and finally vice-president, human resources and strategic planning.

In 1999, Dave moved to the Workers' Compensation Board of B.C. as vice-president of human resources, then became vice-president of compensation services, which comprises 75 percent of WCB's business. In 2003, Dave became president and CEO, overseeing the WCB's many different areas related to finance, insurance, regulations and justice. Dave is always mindful, he says, that "our bottom line has to do with human lives."

Dave has maintained his connection with SFU. His children have attended the university and he frequently invites professors to make presentations to WCB employees and, in turn, graciously agrees to speak to SFU Business students.

"In retrospect, my time at SFU was a pivotal point in my career," says Dave. "I think I have had a lot more fun than I would have had without the EMBA, and there isn't a business day that goes by in which I don't use some skill or piece of information I first encountered in the program."