

**SASC MEETING**  
**MAY 29 2014 CANMORE**  
**WCB UPDATE**

<b>Event</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
<b>Annual Return</b>	Annual Returns were due back at end of February. Actual payroll for 2013 estimate 2014. Make sure you have submitted this as it can impact other areas.- clearances, surplus dividends
<b>Surplus Distribution</b>	<p>Surplus distribution was approved by Board of Director's April 29 – amount of refund is maximum 40 % All employers with active accounts in 2013 will receive their refund starting after May long weekend unless they fall into one of the exceptions below then they will not be receiving a refund.</p> <p>The following scenarios will not receive a surplus distribution :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Employers operations that have a Poor Performance Surcharge (PPS) for 5 or more consecutive years will not receive a rebate including accounts in combination and excluding employers who left PPS in 2014.</li> <li>2. Small business accounts with 10 or more lost-time claims for the 2013 experience period</li> <li>3. Accounts with outstanding 2013 actual insurable earnings</li> <li>4. Accounts paying only the minimum premium</li> <li>5. Accounts in Bad Debt status</li> <li>6. Serious Breach of the Act</li> <li>7. Backdated accounts or industries</li> <li>8. Homecare accounts</li> </ol> <p>If refund is less than \$100 will be applied to the account.</p>
<b>Policy</b>	<p>Causation: effective April 1 was in for Policy Consultation Oct 8/13 to Dec 9/13</p> <p><b>Causation</b></p> <p>The Board of Directors has approved a new causation policy – Policy 02-01, Part II, Application 7 - effective April 1, 2014. The policy sets out the causation tests that WCB uses to determine work-relatedness for all claims. Although the policy is new, the methodology set out in the policy is not, as these are the practices that WCB already uses. The new policy does not change the scope of coverage and does not change how WCB adjudicates claims. The policy does ensure that all internal and external stakeholders have the same information about how WCB determines causation.</p> <p>Unpaid Workers/Volunteers:</p> <p>Policy 06-01 Part II Application 3</p> <p><b>3. What is the difference between a volunteer and an unpaid worker?</b></p>

For workers' compensation purposes, volunteers and unpaid workers are defined as follows:

- volunteers are individuals who provide services with nominal or no remuneration to not-for-profit organizations
- Unpaid workers are individuals, including family members, who provide services without remuneration to any employer operating a for-profit organization to which the Act applies

For WCB purposes, a not-for-profit organization is an organization whose purpose is not to make money for members but, rather, to carry on some activity of a national, patriotic, religious, philanthropic, charitable, scientific, artistic, social, professional or sporting character, or the like.

#### **4. Is coverage available for volunteers?**

WCB may approve an application for optional coverage for volunteers when the volunteers are engaged in connection with an organized project, endeavor, or activity.

The employer must ensure that:

- a value is established for the service at an amount corresponding to an appropriate rate of pay for similar work
- the individual or organization engaging the workers in that volunteer activity controls and records the hours of work for each volunteer, and
- the value of service is included with the organization's reported insurable earnings to allow appropriate premiums to be collected.

In many cases, volunteers are working in industries exempted by the General Regulations. An employer in an exempt industry who wishes to provide coverage for its volunteers must also apply for optional coverage to have the Act apply to its operations. This means that all paid employees will also be covered by WCB while the approved application remains in effect (see Policy 06-02, *Optional Coverage*, Application 1).

For not for profits – to get coverage for volunteers need to request voluntary coverage and include:

1. detailed description of project, endeavor or activity that the individuals are performing
2. amount per hour to be used for the value of service for these individuals (going rate of similar work)
3. estimate of amount of hours these individuals will be working (log the hours worked)

<b>PIR rebates</b>	<p>In 2013, 47.7 % of Alberta's workforce was covered by an employer with a valid COR (Certificate of Recognition). 10,560 employers received refunds ranging from 5 % to 20 % totaling \$89,026,448 in refunds. These are out this month to employers.</p> <p><b>109</b> Employers received PIR rebates in the municipal sector – (represents 90.6 % ) of the funded payroll in the municipal sector compared to the provincial percentage of 47.7 % of Alberta's workforce covered by an employer with a valid COR)</p> <p>Total PIR rebates for Alberta Municipal Health &amp; Safety Association employers - <b>\$3,110,627</b> This is the fifth highest rebate of all 14 certifying partners. Cheques should be received in the month of May.</p>
<b>OIS</b>	<p>32 clinics throughout province – 3 open on Saturdays – one in Calgary, two in Edmonton</p> <p>Calgary – 8 clinics, Edmonton – 11 clinics. Lethbridge -2 clinics, and 1 clinic in each of the following locations: Fort McMurray, Grande Prairie, Hinton, Leduc, Lloydminster, Medicine Hat, Red Deer, Taber, Airdrie, Sherwood Park, St. Albert</p> <p>Get the right medical care at the right time for the right results – safe, sustainable, return to work. Great resources available for promotion and education of the service on our website.</p> <p><a href="http://www.wcb.ab.ca/employers/partner_ois.asp">http://www.wcb.ab.ca/employers/partner_ois.asp</a></p>
<b>Day of Mourning</b>	<p>On April 28, 2013 the Day of Mourning took place. In 2013, 188 workers died from workplace injury or illness in Alberta. – ( up 43 from 2012 – 145, 22 from 2011 year – 123)</p> <p>Occupational Disease – 107 (57 %) MVA – 37 (20 %) Workplace Incidents – 44 (23 %)</p>
<b>Action Planning</b>	<p>This has been the main focus of the Account Managers since 2010. It is a pro-active process to identify employers whose claims and costs are increasing. Account Managers work with the employers to set goals, activities and deliverables towards more effective return to work practices which will lead to reduced costs and lower premiums.</p>
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