

ITF (Industry Task Force) Association

Effecting positive change in Workers' Compensation through the views of Alberta employers

Lost Time (LT) Claim Recording Review

Wendy King noted at the September 8th meeting a report and recommendations was going to the WCB Board of Directors in September. ITF wrote to Erna Ference and Trevor Alexander outlining ITF member concerns and proposals for changing the way LT claims are counted. There were two themes identified; a review of the codes that trigger a LT claim to ensure only claims that involve time loss are included, and introduction of a "grace period" which would defer recording of a LT claim for a period of 1 to 3 days (to be determined). We have not received a response to date. The WCB Board of Directors was scheduled to meet on September 20th & 21st.

Government Engagement

Following the announcement of the change in Minister of Labour and Immigration, ITF wrote to Minister Copping thanking him for his leadership and engagement with the ITF Association. ITF also wrote to Minister Shandro introducing him to the ITF Association, requesting a meeting with the Executive Committee and extending an invitation to attend a future ITF membership meeting.

Physiotherapy Review

ITF wrote to Adrienne Lozinski on September 17th confirming interest in a joint ITF/ LC/ WCB stakeholder discussion regarding the physiotherapy contract. In addition, we proposed establishment of an ITF/WCB working group to discuss member issues that are outside the scope of the contract (i.e. policy or operational). The meeting with two representatives from the ITF Association and Labour Coalition, along with the WCB, will be in early October. Discussions regarding the other issues will take place after contract discussions are complete.

Automatic Review for Cost Relief

In response to the August 12th letter to the WCB regarding an automatic review for cost relief by the claim owner, WCB has advised they will be implementing a system enhancement in late September which will allow for a new and mandatory process for claim owners to review for many different scenarios regarding cost relief. It is anticipated WCB will be able to start implementing some process changes in late fall. Solutions involving more complexity will be handled through a further system enhancement which should be complete by early spring.

WCB expects by the end of next spring they will be able to close any potential gaps there may as it relates to cost relief which will achieve the ITF desired objectives.

Claim Cost Threshold Subcommittee

ITF wrote to the WCB on September 17th proposing the changes to the CCT formula approved by the membership at the September 8th meeting. The letter was acknowledged but there has been no response to date.

Policy Consultation Update

The ITF submission as approved by the membership was made on September 16th. Members are encouraged to also provide their input. Consultation closes October 4th.

Bill 47 Stakeholder Implementation Meeting

Representatives of the ITF and the Labour Coalition met with WCB on September 1st to discuss various scenarios related to egregious conduct and duty to cooperate. There was consensus reached on the scenarios discussed. WCB is still considering development of a database of decisions, however privacy is a concern because of low claim volume. In the interim, WCB will look at enhancing the fact sheets to include additional examples. The list of egregious conduct factors seems to be working well for WCB staff. This group will meet again mid-November to review fact sheets and additional scenarios. Members are encouraged to provide examples or specific questions over the next few weeks.

Psychological Injury Working Group

The PIWG met on September 29th to review work of the WCB since the last meeting. A process chart for case conferences with the employer, worker and service provider focused on return to work planning has been developed, along with a template letter intended to confirm meeting outcomes. WCB also asked for feedback on a revised Psych Injury Dashboard. If any members would like to see the drafts please let Melanie know.

Upcoming ITF Association meetings

The next meeting is on **Wednesday December 1st starting at 8:30 am**. The guest presentation webinar will be held the morning of Friday November 26th.

September 2021