

# ITF (Industry Task Force) Association

*Effecting positive change and ensuring sustainability of the workers' compensation system through the views of Alberta employers*

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## **Industry Custom Pricing**

The ITF subcommittee met on April 18<sup>th</sup>. WCB asked for ITF suggestions on options or alternative methods for voting. Of particular interest is the way non-responses to a poll are handled. The ITF response was sent on April 24<sup>th</sup> and proposed that ICP participation be for a fixed term and employers be re-pollled in the last year of the term regarding continued participation. ITF suggested a non-response should be considered a vote for not participating in ICP rather than a vote for the “status quo” as is currently the case. Several administrative and communication changes were also proposed to help ensure employers have sufficient and accurate information upon which to base their response to a poll.

## **Safety Association Grants (Policy 07-03)**

This was discussed at the Policy Consultation Advisory Group meeting on March 1<sup>st</sup>. WCB asked ITF to expand on the concern raised in the 2021-2023 policy plan submission in order for WCB to determine any next steps. Our response was sent to WCB on April 24<sup>th</sup> and reaffirmed concerns with Policy 07-03 Part II, Application 1. Application 1 outlines a role for WCB in evaluation of safety association performance that was not previously there. We proposed policy be amended to define a more limited role for WCB that focuses primarily on collecting the levy and dispersing the grant and verifying that employers in the industry support continuing to have a levy collected to fund the Safety Association.

## **Duration of Disability Working Group**

The Duration of Disability Working Group met on April 14<sup>th</sup>. WCB has enhanced communication efforts with employers, including site visits, and this will continue. The group discussed a pre-confirmed modified work pilot and new form the WCB has proposed. The intention is to reduce the email back and forth by proactively utilizing a standardized form to speed up the modified work process and ultimately reduce claim duration.

WCB also outlined new employer resources being launched in 2023 and highlighted information that will be available through a new report on the myWCB portal which will include all active claims. The fit for work dashboard will continue to be available.

## **Psychological Injury Working Group**

The PIWG met on April 17<sup>th</sup>. There have been no Cognitive Psychosocial Job Demands Analysis forms submitted yet, and members in the pilot are encouraged to use the form where appropriate. The group discussed a comparison of the policy and DSM criteria for a traumatic event. The only diagnoses which require exposure to a traumatic event (as defined by the DSM) are PTSD and Acute Stress Disorder. WCB has concluded there is alignment between policy and DSM criteria for traumatic events. This will be further discussed. Members also provided feedback on a draft comparing pre-existing and concurrent conditions. WCB will make revisions before the document is more widely circulated. Sharing of information related to a psychological injury was discussed. When there is entitlement for a psychological injury, the claim owner can share information including the diagnosis, treatment, and restrictions. When there are barriers/diagnoses that are pending an entitlement decision or that have been confirmed to be not work-related, WCB is limited in what information can be shared. This will be further discussed in the Access to Information review.

## **ITF Association Representation Update**

The WCB has updated the ITF Association representation stats based on 2022 insurable earnings information. Members of the ITF Association represented 41.4% of total assessable earnings and paid 54.7% of WCB premiums in 2022. It should be noted these statistics exclude members of CFIB. WCB has indicated they do not have a means of incorporating CFIB data because of the wide range of industry groups CFIB members fall under.

## **Upcoming ITF Association meetings**

The guest presentation webinar is on June 8<sup>th</sup> starting at 1:00. The agenda will include the Appeals Commission annual report, the annual update from Occupational Health & Safety, an education session presented by Kevin Drake with Millard Health on Cognitive Psychosocial Job Demands Analysis, and a session on psychological safety and best practices presented by Dave Elniski with AMTA.

The next quarterly membership meeting is on Wednesday June 14<sup>th</sup>. This will be a hybrid in-person and virtual meeting (in-person is at the Holiday Inn in Nisku).

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