

ITF (Industry Task Force) Association

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

Government Engagement

Minister Madu responded to our June 8th letter thanking us for our participation and ongoing engagement. He indicated our comments regarding access to information submitted as part of the Medical & Appeals Process Review will be taken under advisement and further information will be provided once the review of the consultant's final report is completed and recommendations have been finalized.

Psychological Injury Working Group

ITF representatives met with the WCB on August 24th. The WCB team provided updates on the review of processes for primary and secondary psychological claims. A separate Working Group meeting will be scheduled in September to complete this review. The group also discussed the Psychological Injury Data Dashboard and the significant differences in duration of disability for psych injuries. The charts ITF identified have been incorporated in the quarterly WCB report and will be discussed at the September 7th meeting.

The group then discussed the new cognitive/psychosocial job demands form WCB has developed. Much like assessment of physical restrictions and limitations, the form is designed to quantify restrictions in 13 key areas. These include short term memory and recall, attention to detail, completing multiple tasks, mental endurance, problem solving and decision making, degree of supervision required, supervision of others, time pressures, environmental distractions, interpersonal relationships (working cooperatively with others), exposure to emotional situations, exposure to confrontational situations, and verbal communication.

We are looking for members who are interested in using the new form as part of a pilot and providing feedback to the WCB. The plan is to roll this out to all employers in October and we are looking for a representative sample and reasonable number of claims to test the form. If you would like additional information or are interested in participating please let Melanie know.

WCB Policy Development/Consultation

The Opioid Policy is open for discussion. The subcommittee met on July 21st to discuss member feedback on the draft and a recommendation has been

developed for discussion with the membership on September 7th. This consultation closes September 26th.

Access to Information

WCB continues to work with the Appeals Commission to compare and understand differences in disclosure practices. We received an update on August 29th and progress has been slow over the summer. WCB has indicated we should hear more in mid-September and a meeting will be scheduled with ITF to discuss this further once WCB has a better understanding of the Appeals Commission disclosure practices and why they may be different.

If members have claim examples where there were significant differences in what was released please let Melanie know as this will be helpful for future discussions.

Lost Time Claim (LTC) Recording

The July 11th meeting with WCB and Labour representatives was rescheduled to September 26th. Three general topics on the agenda include classification codes that trigger a LTC, flexibility in LTC start date and implications for employers beyond bidding on work. Let Melanie know if you would like to receive the meeting link.

Upcoming ITF Association meetings

A reminder – **the September ITF meeting is at a new location**, the Acclaim Hotel in Calgary. Also, for those attending in person, please bring a personal device (phone, tablet or laptop) to facilitate electronic voting. Your device will also serve as your microphone when you are speaking at the meeting to connect you to the virtual attendees.

The next guest presentation webinar is on August 30th. The final webinar for 2022 will be scheduled closer to the November meeting.

The final quarterly membership meeting of 2022 is on Wednesday November 30th. This will be a hybrid in-person and virtual meeting. The in-person meeting is at the Holiday Inn Edmonton Airport in Nisku.

August 2022