

# 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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## Government Engagement

ITF received a response to our December 9<sup>th</sup> letter from Minister Shandro. He indicated he and department representatives will be available to meet with the ITF Executive regarding the review of the Accident Fund target range and lost time claim recording as these reviews progress. Regarding the review involving employer premium submissions, employer feedback in the 2020 review suggested there may be some confusion about the options available for employers in submitting WCB premium payments. The WCB was asked to provide an update on enhanced client education on this matter. Minister Shandro reaffirmed there are no plans to reinstate the Joint OHS/WCB reporting project and the commitment made by Minister Copping to engage the ITF in discussions on data sources and use will continue to be honoured. Regarding transition of the Accident Fund to AIMCo, he indicated it is understood any loss of funds could have a detrimental impact on employers, and that government has not identified any risks with the transition.

## Transition of the Accident Fund to AIMCo

On February 16<sup>th</sup> ITF Executive met with Evan Siddall (AIMCo CEO) and Amit Prakash (AIMCo CFMO) along with Trevor Alexander, Ron Helmhold and Donna Emsley from WCB. Darren provided an overview of the ITF Association, our mandate and areas of interest, and the significance of the Accident Fund and investment performance to employers. He also highlighted the importance of information exchange and strength of the relationship that exists between ITF and the WCB. Evan then spoke about the changes that have taken place over the last few months within AIMCo. He highlighted their commitment to a "client first" culture and recognized the differences between pension funds and the WCB Accident Fund. Work is ongoing to review their investment platform and ensure the products offered matches the needs of clients such as the WCB. Work also continues to develop a balanced scorecard which will be used by WCB to evaluate AIMCo on performance, portfolio management, risk, alignment and client service. Ron Helmhold will continue to provide quarterly reports to ITF on Accident Fund performance.

## Bill 47 Implementation Stakeholder Group

ITF and Labour Coalition representatives will be meeting with the WCB again in March to continue discussion of the

egregious conduct and duty to cooperate policy implementation. Members are encouraged to provide specific questions or scenarios to Melanie as they arise.

## Psychological Injury Working Group

The working group met on February 9<sup>th</sup> to review the latest version of the psychological injury dashboard. Feedback on the changes was provided to WCB and a session open to all ITF members will be scheduled (likely in April) to discuss the new Dashboard.

## WCB Policy Development/Consultation

The subcommittee has drafted their recommendation on the Medical Cannabis and COVID Immunization Cost Relief policies for approval by the membership at the March 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. The draft Funding Policy will be discussed at the March ITF meeting. ITF has written to the WCB asking for an extension to the timelines given the importance of the Funding Policy to employers and the sustainability of the workers compensation system. We also asked that the reports from Eckler and Lifeworks be shared with the ITF Association and other interested stakeholders in their entirety. An in-person consultation specific to the Funding Policy was also suggested.

## Policy Consultation Advisory Committee

The PCAG met on February 7<sup>th</sup>, with Darren, Craig, Michael and Len representing ITF. Discussion included:

- Covid Mandatory vaccination cost relief and Medical Cannabis policies consultation
- 2022 Education session for physicians – Dr. Charles Els will discuss various issues related to medical cannabis. This topic was proposed by ITF.
- There will be an education session and consultation for employers in March. Dr. Victoria Cho will discuss medical cannabis. The session will also include in person consultation for LTC recording and the Funding policy. WCB indicated they would provide their research results to stakeholders attending.

## Upcoming ITF Association meetings

The next quarterly membership meeting is on Wednesday March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 8:30. This will be a virtual meeting. June 1<sup>st</sup> is the date of the following meeting. A decision is still to be made regarding virtual or in-person attendance.

February 2022