

ITF (Industry Task Force) Association

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

Government Engagement

Following discussion at the June 1st meeting ITF wrote to Minister Madu as a follow up to his March meeting with the ITF Executive. We reiterated our concerns regarding access to information from the WCB and asked that the Medical & Appeals Process Review report be released as soon as possible. ITF had identified this as an issue in our review submission. We also noted the WCB did make changes to the Funding Policy Consultation process following concerns being expressed by ITF. No response has been received to date.

Access to Information

In follow-up to discussion at the June 1st meeting ITF also wrote to Trevor Alexander about the discrepancies in information shared with employers by the WCB and Appeals Commission. We noted the information available to an employer as part of the appeal process under legislation includes requests internal to the WCB and expressed concern legislative and policy requirements regarding employer access are not being met.

We received a response on June 24th. WCB is in the process of working with the Appeals Commission to compare disclosure practices. 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.

WCB Board Vacancy

Raymond Block has been appointed to the WCB Board of Directors, representative of the interests of workers. All vacancies on the Board have now been filled.

Lost Time Claim Recording

The July 11th meeting with the WCB and Labour Coalition representatives has been rescheduled to September 26th. Three general areas of discussion on the agenda include classification codes that trigger a LTC, flexibility in LTC start date and implications for employers beyond bidding work. Members are asked to advise Melanie if they would like to receive the Teams meeting link.

WCB Policy Development/Consultation

The ITF submission was revised based on discussion at the June 1st meeting and circulated to members for final review. Members were invited to contact either Darren or Melanie if there were any concerns with the draft. There were no issues or concerns expressed by the membership. The ITF Executive and Funding Policy Subcommittee met on June 15th to finalize the ITF submission. Consultation closed June 20th and a copy of the submission is available on the Members Only website.

WCB/OHS Data Sharing

The subcommittee met on June 28th to discuss some recent developments on this issue. The OHS Surveillance Unit has been contacting employers that they believe are not reporting Potentially Serious Incidents (PSIs) based upon claims data received from WCB. This type of communication from Alberta OHS may come as a surprise to employers since the PSI reporting process and corresponding surveillance was most recently updated in the December 2021 OHS legislation change.

Data sharing between WCB and OHS is not new, but the extent to which OHS is able to use the data they receive has been enhanced due to IT improvements in recent years. Several Association members have been meeting with OHS to discuss their approach and voice concerns about potential unintended consequences (e.g. non-reporting of WCB claims) and tone of the communication.

ITF now has representation on the Prevention Data Advisory Committee, and the Governance subcommittee. ITF will continue to monitor development of the governance guideline for data sharing, and the ITF subcommittee will be meeting again as this unfolds. If you would like to join this subcommittee let Melanie know.

Upcoming ITF Association meetings

The next guest presentation webinar is on Tuesday August 30th starting at 1:00.

The AGM and fall quarterly membership meeting is on Wednesday September 7th. Planning is underway for another hybrid in-person and virtual meeting. The in-person meeting will be held at the Acclaim Hotel in Calgary.

June 2022