

ITF (Industry Task Force) Association

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

Government Engagement

ITF wrote to Minister Madu on March 1st introducing him to the ITF Association and requesting a meeting with the ITF Executive. Jillian, Craig and Michael met with Minister Madu in-person on March 29th. Minister Madu was very personable and initiated the discussion by asking about the ITF and what we wanted him to hear. He had not yet been fully briefed on this file, and his ADM commented that a full briefing was soon to occur. Discussion focused on the priorities of the ITF Association, which included a review of the target funding range. Minister Madu has also been invited to attend a future ITF quarterly meeting.

WCB Policy Development/Consultation

The ITF response on the COVID Immunization Cost Relief draft policy as approved by membership at the March 2nd meeting has been submitted. The deadline for consultations has been extended to May 2nd on Medical Cannabis and June 20th on the Funding Policy.

A stakeholder information session has been scheduled for the afternoon of April 19th. Possible changes to the submission on the Medical Cannabis draft policy discussed at the March 2nd meeting will be revisited after the information session. Other topics for the information session include the Funding Policy and lost time claim recording. An email with the registration link was sent to members on March 28th. Members need to register directly with the WCB for this session.

ITF has received a copy of the actuarial reports from Eckler and Lifeworks. The Funding Policy subcommittee is meeting on April 6th. If you would like to join the discussion let Melanie know. A meeting with any interested ITF members and WCB representatives on the Funding Policy and the funding range will be scheduled after the April information session.

OHS Funding

The Order in Council approving the OHS levy for 2021-2022 was passed on March 23, 2022 and prescribed the transfer of \$42,139,000. The approved levy transfer for 2020-2021 was \$46,256,000 and for 2019-2020 it was \$45,153,000. These amounts will not match what was presented in the 2022 rate presentation because WCB sets rates on a calendar year basis and the OHS levy is collected based on the government fiscal year.

The most recent posted fiscal estimates indicate the OHS budget forecast for 2021-2022 is \$50,128,000 and the actual budget for 2020-2021 was \$46,299,000.

Physiotherapy Services Working Group

Jillian Horvath and Craig Hrynychuk attended the March 17th meeting on behalf of the ITF Association. The working group reviewed two draft documents; a summary of physiotherapy contract changes and a revised employer copy of the PT Comprehensive Progress/Discharge Report. Comments were provided to the WCB and the two documents will undergo further revision. Changes to the physiotherapy contract are effective 1 April 2022.

Bill 47 Implementation Stakeholder Group

ITF and Labour Coalition representatives will be meeting with the WCB again in April 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. This will likely be the last meeting of this group.

Psychological Injury Working Group

Work on the psychological injury dashboard and identification of cognitive demands and restrictions continues. The PIWG will also be undertaking data analysis and discussion of claims involving secondary psychological issues, and the impact these may be having on claim costs and claim duration.

ITF Association Representation

WCB has completed the calculation of ITF representation statistics for 2021. ITF members paid in excess of 56% of premiums and 42% of assessable earnings. 2020 stats were 51% and 41% respectively.

Upcoming ITF Association meetings

The next quarterly membership meeting is on Wednesday June 1st. Space is being held at the Holiday Inn Edmonton Airport in Nisku in the event we return to in-person attendance. A decision will be confirmed closer to the meeting date. A potential guest presentation webinar is being planned for the morning of May 26th.

March 2022