

ITF (Industry Task Force) Association

Effecting positive change in Workers' Compensation through the views of Alberta employers

Government Engagement

On August 31st ITF provided feedback to Minister Copping regarding the Fair Practices Office and Medical Panels Office as part of their respective program reviews. Minister Copping replied on September 25th, thanking us for our feedback. He indicated he looked forward to sharing the outcomes of the program reviews and implementation plans in the coming months.

On September 18th, the ITF also wrote to Minister Copping, inviting him to our November meeting. Minister Copping has accepted our invitation, and he and Janet MacEachern will be attending our virtual guest presentation meeting which has been scheduled for Friday November 20th to accommodate the Minister's schedule.

Copies of this correspondence can be accessed from the Members Only website and found under the Current Initiatives link on the left sidebar, then 2020 WCB legislative and other reviews.
(<https://www.itfassociation.ca/member-login>)

Transfer of the WCB Accident Fund to AIMCo

Further to the September 21st emailed update on the meeting between members of the ITF Executive with Trevor Alexander and Ron Helmhold, the ITF Executive has formally requested a meeting with the AIMCo CEO and the AIMCo Board Chair. We have also asked that Erna Ference, Trevor Alexander and Ron Helmhold be included. We requested a high-level overview of the AIMCo organization, how they intend to manage the WCB Accident Fund portfolio, current status of the transition, and the benefit Alberta employers can expect from this new arrangement. We also want to ensure AIMCo has an understanding of the interests and concerns ITF members have as a key stakeholder and funder of the workers' compensation system. The Board Secretariat is working to find a meeting date in November.

You may recall, ITF wrote to Minister Toews on August 20th, reiterating concerns with the transfer of the Accident Fund to AIMCo. We received his response dated September 22nd. Minister Toews said at this point in time government has no intention of changing its policy of consolidating investment management under AIMCo or amending legislation to include a special provision for the WCB Accident Fund. He said the WCB Board will continue to set the direct strategy for the Accident Fund including investment goals, objectives and policies for the Fund. AIMCo will work closely with the WCB to create a

portfolio of investments that meet the WCB's needs and complies with policies set by the WCB.

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Policy Consultation Advisory Group (PCAG)

The next meeting of the PCAG has been scheduled for October 21st. PCAG members have been provided with a confidential draft of the Employers Policies which will be presented to the Board for approval in November. These policies went through consultation in 2019. Concerns remain with proposed revisions to two provisions: **Policy 07-01 Part II Application 2 #1** - Can more than one industry classification be assigned to an employer's business? and **Policy 07-01 Part II Application 1 #8** - How does WCB classify franchisors?

Further discussion with the WCB on these two issues is being arranged. Copies of this correspondence can be accessed from the Members Only website under the Subcommittees link on the left sidebar, then 2019 Policy Consultation. (<https://www.itfassociation.ca/member-login>)

A reminder to provide any comments you have on Policy 04-04, Part II, Application 5 – permanent disability awards (pensions) for pre-1995 claims by Friday October 16th.

Upcoming ITF Association meetings

Guest presentation webinar on **Friday November 20th** starting at 9:30 am. Minister Copping and Janet MacEachern will be joining at 10:00. Details regarding a second guest presentation are still being worked on.

Our final quarterly meeting for 2020 will be held virtually on **Wednesday November 25th starting at 8:30 am**. The WCB will be joining at 10:00 am. In addition to the regular agenda items, James Wilson will be providing the 2021 rate presentation and Dr. Victoria Cho will also be presenting an update on the physician engagement/education strategy and related items.