

ITF (Industry Task Force) Association

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

Government Engagement

Minister Shandro will be joining our meeting on December 1st to discuss his priorities and provide an update on Ministry initiatives. Members of the ITF Executive will also be meeting with him on December 6th to introduce him to the Association in greater detail and discuss our priorities. This meeting was rescheduled from November 17th.

Claim Cost Threshold (CCT) Formula

ITF wrote to the WCB on September 17th proposing changes to the CCT formula approved by the members at the September meeting. Subcommittee members met with WCB on November 23rd to discuss our proposals in greater detail. Our proposals were considered by the WCB and Darren was advised on November 25th that we will see some changes to the formula. Details will be discussed as part of the rate announcement next week.

Lost Time (LT) Claim Recording Review

ITF wrote to Erna Ference and Trevor Alexander in advance of the September Board of Directors meeting outlining ITF member concerns and proposals for changing the way LT claims are counted. Wendy King wrote to ITF on November 15th indicating they are planning a session with ITF and Labour Coalition representatives to discuss this in greater detail. An update will be provided at the ITF meeting.

Automatic Review for Cost Relief

This item has been tabled for discussion at the March 2nd meeting. WCB is still in the process of mapping out the system requirements needed in order to make the modifications required to fully automate this process. At the March meeting, WCB expects they will be able to outline the full plan regarding on how they will automate and streamline the cost relief process. In the interim, claim owners have been reminded this review is required.

Duration of Disability Subcommittee

The subcommittee met with WCB on November 19th to discuss the scope and desired outcomes for this project. WCB is collecting additional data on drivers of the increase to the average for review by the subcommittee.

Bill 47 Stakeholder Implementation Meeting

Representatives of the ITF and Labour Coalition did not meet with the WCB in November due to scheduling conflicts for the Labour Coalition. The meeting has been rescheduled on January 12th to continue discussions on egregious conduct and duty to cooperate. Members are encouraged to forward examples or questions to Melanie.

Transition of the Accident Fund to AIMCo

The ITF Executive met with Ron Helmhold and Trevor Alexander on November 15th to discuss the transition of the Fund. As of November 1st all WCB assets have been transferred to AIMCo with WCB investment managers continuing to provide oversight. AIMCo continues to work on restructuring their equity platform, and this is expected to be completed by the end of 2021. WCB will then revisit consultation on the investment policy and work will begin on development of an Accident Fund scorecard. A meeting with the ITF Executive, WCB and AIMCo representatives is scheduled for February 16th 2022.

Physiotherapy Review

Jillian Horvath and Craig Hrynychuk represented ITF at the October 6th meeting with the Labour Coalition and WCB regarding outcome improvements that could be reflected in the 2022 physiotherapy contract renewal.

Significant chances are being made in terms of required reporting for Physiotherapists which should lead to better outcomes and communication (e.g. a new electronic reporting system will expediate the treatment approval process, provide metrics on clinic performance and hopefully lead to more conversations with community physiotherapy providers). The Physiotherapist will also be able to request support from the Claim Owner and/or the Physiotherapy Consultant in real time. Physiotherapy reports were also reviewed and both groups agreed worker functional abilities need to be clearer along with the return to work recommendations. Discussion of other ITF issues will take place after contract discussions are completed.

Upcoming ITF Association meetings

The next meeting is on **Wednesday December 1st starting at 8:30 am.**

November 2021