

ITF (Industry Task Force) Association

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

Government Engagement

Members of the ITF Executive are meeting with Minister Shandro, who is now responsible for Labour & Immigration, on November 17th to introduce him to the ITF Association and discuss our priorities. Minister Shandro will also be joining our meeting on December 1st to discuss his priorities and provide an update on Ministry initiatives.

Rob Feagan and Lewinda Knowles will be attending our December 1st meeting to provide an update on the Prevention Data Advisory Committee Roadmap and discuss next steps. This was scheduled at the request of the WCB given concerns raised by ITF members in the past about data sharing and the work of this committee.

Claim Cost Threshold

ITF wrote to the WCB on September 17th proposing the changes to the CCT formula approved by the membership at the September 8th meeting. ITF wrote again on October 13th asking whether a meeting will be scheduled to discuss our proposed changes. Adrienne Lozinski indicated they are in the midst of their annual review and are looking at our suggestions to understand the impact.

Investment Policy Review

Following up on the Board of Directors June minutes, ITF wrote to WCB on October 13th asking what the process would be for stakeholder consultation on the Investment Policy review. Wendy King responded on October 18th indicating the timing and scope of review is dependent on the outcomes from the restructuring of AIMCo's equity platform. WCB is expecting AIMCo will finalize its equity platform restructuring in mid-2022. WCB will then determine the impact on the Investment Policy and make a decision regarding future stakeholder consultation.

Physiotherapy Review

ITF wrote to Adrienne Lozinski on September 17th confirming interest in a joint ITF/ Labour Coalition / WCB stakeholder discussion regarding the physiotherapy contract. In addition, we proposed establishment of an ITF/WCB working group to discuss policy or procedural issues that are outside the scope of the contract.

Jillian Horvath and Craig Hrynchuk represented ITF at the October 6th meeting with the Labour Coalition and WCB's

Heath Care Strategy group to discuss service and outcome improvements that could be reflected in the 2022 contract renewal.

Significant changes are being made by the WCB regarding required reporting for Physiotherapists. The new electronic reporting system will speak directly to the WCB's claim management program which will expedite the treatment approval process, provide metrics on clinic performance and lead to more conversations between the WCB and community physiotherapy providers. The Physiotherapist will also be able to request support from the WCB Claim Owner and/or the WCB Physiotherapy Consultant in real time.

A treatment consideration flow has been developed to ensure the most appropriate course of treatment is provided to the worker in an expedited fashion. This should improve the timeliness of referrals for investigative imaging and specialist consultations, as well as communication with physiotherapists. Current reports were also reviewed and feedback was provided. Both groups agreed that the functional abilities and return to work recommendations need to be clearer.

Discussions regarding the other ITF issues will take place after contract discussions are complete.

Lost Time (LT) Claim Recording Review

There has been no response from the WCB on the September 8th letter to Erna Ference and Trevor Alexander outlining ITF member concerns and proposals for changing the way LT claims are counted. The ITF Executive is considering next steps.

Bill 47 Stakeholder Implementation Meeting

Representatives of the ITF and the Labour Coalition will be meeting with the WCB in November to continue discussions on egregious conduct and duty to cooperate. Members are encouraged to provide examples or specific questions over the next few weeks.

Upcoming ITF Association meetings

The next meeting is on **Wednesday December 1st starting at 8:30 am**. The guest presentation webinar will be held the morning of Friday November 26th.

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