

ITF (Industry Task Force) Association

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

Government Engagement

With the recent cabinet shuffle the WCB now falls under Jobs, Economy and Northern Development with Brian Jean as Minister and Shawn McLeod as Deputy Minister. Assistant Deputy Minister Suzanne Harbottle previously committed to attending our November 30th meeting on behalf of the Ministry and at this point we are still expecting her attendance. Discussion topics will be provided in advance. If there is anything you would like to have included please contact Melanie.

Psychological Injury Working Group

The group met on October 12th to review current processes for primary and secondary psychological claims. Feedback was provided to WCB. On-line reporting for psychologists is being launched shortly, which should provide more timely information for managing these claims. Feedback is also being gathered from participants in the Psychosocial/Cognitive Job Demands pilot and potential changes will be discussed with the working group in November.

Physiotherapy Services Working Group

Craig Hrynchuk and Jillian Horvath represented the ITF Association at a meeting with WCB and the Labor Coalition on October 19th. WCB is reporting a reduction in the average number of treatments overall since the new contract was implemented April 1st although this may be premature. WCB has also seen progress in terms of moving prolonged cases through progressive levels of review. ITF representatives asked about the frequency and drivers behind treatment extensions under the revised model and noted getting specific information on when extensions are permitted would be valuable. ITF will be receiving a more detailed report from WCB and this item is on the November 30th meeting agenda.

WCB/OHS Data Sharing

The October 20th meeting was rescheduled to October 31st. ITF representatives met with Adrienne Lozinski, James Wilson and Erik Soderstrom from WCB and Rob Feagan and Dejan Ozegovic from OHS to discuss member concerns and facilitate better understanding of current processes. OHS emphasized the use of WCB data is focused on awareness, education and prevention. WCB has committed to working collaboratively with ITF

on refining the data used in the calculation of the "LTC/100 worker" rate. OHS is further refining the criteria for inclusion (or exclusion) of employers getting PSI reporting letters and will be reviewing the terminology used in correspondence and on the website. Other suggestions included using the COR audit to reinforce PSI reporting and possibly expanding or highlighting a role for certifying partners in follow-up on potential incidents of non reporting as a neutral third party.

Appeals Commission Recruitment

Following up on discussion at the September 6th meeting, ITF was asked to participate in the interview panel for part time Commissioners. Boris Makale volunteered to represent ITF on the panel. However, with the announcement of a new Cabinet the Appeals Commission was asked to postpone the scheduled interviews. A new date has not been set.

WCB Board of Director Appointments

Recruitment was initiated in October for a Board Chair. Erna Ference's term expires March 20, 2023.

Industry Custom Pricing

The ITF subcommittee will be meeting with WCB on November 1st to discuss concerns identified by ITF members and identify issues that can be addressed relatively quickly through process and procedure change. The review will also identify items requiring policy change.

Upcoming ITF Association meetings

The next guest presentation webinar is being arranged for the afternoon of Thursday November 24th starting at 1:00. The Appeals Commission will provide their quarterly update, followed by a presentation by WCB on the Predictive Modeling initiative and discussion of how this is being used. Lewinda Knowles will then join for a discussion on the use of WCB data by OHS. The final presentation is still being confirmed.

The final quarterly membership meeting of 2022 is on Wednesday November 30th. The 2023 WCB Premium Rate presentation will take place at this meeting. This will be a hybrid in-person and virtual meeting. The in-person meeting is at the Holiday Inn Edmonton Airport in Nisku.

October 2022