

ITF (Industry Task Force) Association

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

Review of the Case Assistant Model

Boris Makale and Melanie Goroniuk met with Sara Schmidt, Vice President Client Services and Disability Management on July 17th in follow up to our offer to host a focus group to discuss the case assistant role and current model. Sara appreciated the suggestion and welcomes the opportunity to hear employer perspectives directly. A session is being scheduled in September to discuss the challenges and benefits of the current model, and the role of case assistants in greater detail.

Policy Consultation Advisory Group (PCAG)

The Policy Consultation Advisory Group met on July 14th. Boris Makale, Leighann Poitras, Anita Buschlean and Melanie Bennett represented ITF. The PCAG reviewed the revised terms of reference and provided additional feedback. ITF suggested WCB commit to reviewing changes to Policy at relevant intervals to verify the desired intent was achieved and if assumptions regarding costs and other impacts were accurate.

The draft Policy Interpretation and Application policy was discussed. WCB having the power to decide what is/is not relevant information for the Board to gather or investigate was a key topic. The fee for service model for home maintenance was questioned by labour representatives. ITF also commented on the importance of a balance between accountability and providing timely service for those that are entitled to it. ITF reiterated the cost relief policy is under review by the ITF subcommittee, and Adrienne Lozinski confirmed the requested data will be forthcoming. The PCAG will meet again in October.

WCB Policy Consultation

Three consultations are open until September 29th. The ITF Policy Consultation subcommittee is meeting on August 8th to review member comments and the consultation documents. If you would like to join the discussion please let Melanie know.

Access to Information

The Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Acts were both effective June 11th. In anticipation of future discussion with WCB on redaction of information released to employers, ITF re-engaged with CACE and asked for their opinion on the impact of this new legislation on employer access to WCB claim file information.

Boris Makale and Leighann Poitras met with the Assistant Deputy Minister on July 30th to discuss Bills 33 and 34, and member concerns regarding access to information. The ADM confirmed that paramountcy only applies to the *Access to Information Act*. The *Protection of Privacy Act* (POPA) does not include an express paramountcy clause and disclosure is permitted in accordance with another enactment of Alberta or Canada (section 4(c)). As such there would be no inconsistency or conflict between the POPA and other legislation. Essentially if the WCA allowed for disclosure previously, that should not change.

WCB is rolling out the new process ITF members piloted for cost relief file requests to all employers on July 28th.

Psych Injury Working Group (PIWG) Modified Work Project Team

This project team met twice in July and discussed the changes made to the psych injury process maps after the last discussion. Clarification was made to several sections. The group also discussed the benefits of having a case manager assigned to psych injury claims during the accommodation and return to work process. The second meeting focused on tools and resources that should be developed to better facilitate return to work.

Psychological Injury Presumptive Coverage

Order in Council [2025_269.pdf](#) was signed July 23rd extending presumptive coverage for regulated members of the College of Registered Nurses and College of Registered Psychiatric Nurses of Alberta under the *Health Professions Act*, as well as select nursing students, who are directly involved in providing patient care.

Upcoming ITF Association meetings

The next guest presentation webinar is scheduled for September 4th starting at 9:30 am. Presentations will include: an overview of the new psychologist contract and provider standards; the role and value of Industry Specialists, along with an orientation to the Employer Portal and utilization of information available. The third session is still being confirmed.

The next quarterly meeting and AGM will be held on Wednesday September 10th starting at 8:30. The in-person meeting is at the Manufacturers Health & Safety Association in Rocky View. July 2025

Additional information can be found on the ITF website - <http://www.itfassociation.ca>