

ITF (Industry Task Force) Association

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

Psych Injury Working Group (PIWG)

The PIWG met on June 3rd to discuss Q2 metrics and priorities for the balance of 2026. There were no extraordinary results. Enhancements to employer reporting are still in development. WCB also outlined learning events planned for 2026.

WCB Annual Meeting

The WCB Annual General meeting was held on June 11th at 10:30. WCB has posted a recording of the broadcast, as well as a summary of questions and responses on their website. Links are below.

In case you missed it: [Watch a recording of our 2026 AGM broadcast](#), available online until July 14, and check out a [summary of questions answered during the event](#).

WCB Policy Consultation

WCB invited representatives of the ITF Association and Labor to a pre-consultation focus group to discuss the Psychological Injury Policy in preparation for the upcoming policy consultation. The group met in-person on June 24th. ITF was represented by Boris Makale, Scott Klappstein, Craig Hrynychuk, Sydney Dowhaniuk, Lorri Carr, Janine Dickinson and Renee Vanderwolf.

Three general topics were identified in advance:

- Entitlement of Psychological Injury Claims - Where is the psychological injury policy helping to support appropriate entitlement decisions for claims with psychological injury? What opportunities exist?
- Managing Psychological Injury Claims - Are the unique needs of psychological injury claims adequately considered throughout the lifecycle of the claim?
- Clarity - How can entitlement and management of psychological injury claims be easier to understand and more predictable in practice, so both workers and employers can plan and engage with confidence?

Sessions were well moderated and allowed for the free dialogue of participants. Priority areas for review identified by ITF included communication, policy clarity/verbiage and content, early intervention and treatment, presumption, training and desk level concerns, quality of

provider reporting, and processes for both primary and secondary psych injuries.

Formal consultation on the Psychological Injury Policy is expected in 2027.

ITF Member Open Forum

The next member Open Forum has been scheduled for July 16th. The session starts at 11:00 am.

To date there has been one topic proposed involving Return to Work Planning Meetings (RTWPM). RTWPM have been discussed in the past, but one of our members has noticed they are being challenged by the WCB that by declining the meeting it goes against an employer's duty to co-operate. Member experiences regarding how and when the Board is allowing the employer to say no to a RTWPM will be discussed. Concerns have also been raised about providers coming to RTWPMs unprepared (e.g. they do not have the worker's recent abilities and restrictions) therefore, making the meeting of no consequence. Prevalence and strategies to deal with this will also be discussed.

The Invite for the Teams meeting has been sent to members who asked to be included in this offering. If you would like to be added to the distribution list, or to suggest any additional topics, please let Melanie know.

Lunch & Learn Session

The next member Lunch & Learn is scheduled for July 29th. Invites for this Teams meeting have also been sent to members who asked to be included in this offering. If you would like to be added to the distribution list, or if you have any specific claims you would like to discuss, please let Melanie know.

Upcoming ITF Association meetings

The next guest presentation webinar is on September 10th starting at 9:30 am. Peter Smith with the Institute for Work & Health will present their recent research on the combined effect of psychosocial safety and OHS vulnerabilities on workplace injury. Additional presenters are being confirmed.

The next quarterly meeting and Annual General Meeting is on Wednesday September 16th starting at 8:30. The in-person meeting is at the Manufacturers Health & Safety Association in Rocky View.

June 2026