

ITF (Industry Task Force) Association

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

Psychological Injury Working Group (PIWG)

The PIWG met on May 30th to continue the discussion on metrics and confirm project team outcomes for 2025. The importance of ensuring that the metrics and targets being set reflect the intention was emphasized. WCB completed a jurisdiction scan and reported there is little consistency across Canada regarding how psych injury stats are being reported. A greater emphasis on return to modified work for psych injuries will be incorporated in stats reporting going forward. Questions were also raised about claim status coding being applied and how this affects metrics. This issue has been referred to the Duration of Disability working group for further review.

PIWG Employer Modified Work Project Team

This project team met on May 15th. As a first step the team will review and update the previously developed psychological injury management processes. The objective is to incorporate new tools and identify any additional collaboration points or gaps to better facilitate supported return-to-work/modified work. A summary version of the CPJDA will also be finalized to share with health care professionals to enhance the focus on RTW.

PIWG Employer Reporting Project Team

This project team met on May 21st. As a starting point the team will be validating the data currently being provided to ITF and the PIWG. Development of a psychological injury report that would be made generally available to all employers (not only ITF members) is the next deliverable. Specific data to be included as well as tools and resources that may be needed to ensure employer understanding of psych injury data will also be discussed.

Access to Information Working Group

In follow-up to discussion with WCB in April regarding government still drafting Regulations to support Bill 33 and 34, ITF wrote to Minister Glubish to request a meeting to discuss the new legislation, and challenges faced by employers due to the differing interpretations of disclosure provisions under the FOIP Act. He asked ITF to provide additional information in order for him to be prepared and arrange for the appropriate staff to attend the meeting. At the May 28th webinar Dale Wispinski indicated the changes are not expected to have a significant impact on the Appeals Commission.

Industry Custom Pricing (ICP)

WCB indicated they will be commencing the second round of ICP repolling in early June. Draft documents were provided to ITF for review. WCB has incorporated changes suggested by ITF members after the 2024 repolling. Repolling options being offered is on the agenda for discussion at the June 4th meeting.

Physiotherapy Services (PT)

The ITF subcommittee met on May 22nd in advance of the May 27th PT Stakeholder meeting with WCB and the Labour Coalition. The focus of the Stakeholder meeting included the impact of contract changes and Q1 metrics.

It was noted by ITF that in some cases providers and case managers are unaware of the contract changes. Also, since treatment visit entitlement has been reduced the downward trend in visits and episode duration should not be overstated, and perhaps a more value added metric would be improved treatment outcomes in RTW (e.g. GRTW/work hardening are occurring and not that workers are receiving treatment with unchanged restrictions).

ITF Association Representation

WCB has calculated the ITF Association representation stats based on 2024 employer year end reporting. In 2024, ITF members represented in excess of 42.7% of earnings and 55.1% of premiums. Earnings have increased over previous years, while premiums are relatively unchanged. Member representation has now returned to pre-2020 levels.

Cabinet Changes

Following the conclusion of the spring sitting Premier Smith made several cabinet changes. Minister of Jobs, Economy, Trade, and Immigration is now the Honourable Joseph Schow. He previously served as Minister of Tourism and Sport, and Government House Leader. He was first elected as the Member for Cardston-Siksika in 2019 and was re-elected in 2023.

Upcoming ITF Association meetings

The next quarterly meeting is on Wednesday June 4th. The in-person meeting is at the Holiday Inn Edmonton Airport in Nisku. May 2025