

# ITF (Industry Task Force) Association

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

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## WCB Updates

In follow-up to discussion at the October 29<sup>th</sup> member open forum, ITF has written to Sara Schmidt (Vice President Client Services & Disability Management) proposing a pilot involving ITF members in 2026. The intention is to more quickly identify claims that will require active case management and ensure employer input is considered so claims are appropriately triaged and timely case management takes place. Learnings from the pilot would help to inform WCB decisions involving the role of case assistants and work flow.

Feedback on the summary from the case assistant review focus group was also provided to WCB. WCB is establishing a working committee to begin redefining the role and expectations of the case assistant. WCB will provide an update at our December 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

## Access to Information Working Group

The group met on November 21<sup>st</sup> to discuss metrics, work completed in 2025 and upcoming initiatives. The group will meet again in January to discuss Terms of Reference and priorities for 2026, and the planned Q1 redaction review initiative. ITF expressed concern with the limited progress in addressing employer concerns to date.

## OHS Levy

The [Order in Council](#) was signed on November 19<sup>th</sup> directing a transfer of \$57,399,000 from the WCB to fund OHS for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. The OHS transfer was \$48,480,000 for 2024-2025 and \$44,574,000 for 2023-2024. The OHS 2025/26 budget increased by \$4.2m with the balance of the levy increase likely because there was less deferred revenue.

Bill 12 introduced on November 25 also proposes an increase to \$3 million from \$1.5 million to the annual funding limit for the Heroes' Fund for first responders.

## Physiotherapy Services

The ITF subcommittee met on November 3<sup>rd</sup> in advance of the November 5<sup>th</sup> stakeholder meeting. At the stakeholder meeting WCB reviewed Q3 metrics and highlighted a reduction in treatment duration and visits. For no time-loss claims average treatments decreased to 9 visits in 2025 versus 14 in 2024. Duration of treatment decreased to 32 days versus 43 in 2024. For time loss

claims, average treatment visits decreased to 12 in 2025 versus 17 in 2024. Duration decreased to 41 days in 2025 versus 52 in 2024. The group discussed whether we are seeing better outcomes based on an active treatment model or if additional attention is required.

Concerns regarding extension of physio treatment without review was also discussed. The group will meet again in April, once a full year of the new contract is complete.

## Duration of Disability Working Group

The working group met on November 25<sup>th</sup> to discuss 2025 results and priorities for 2026. Average duration decreased to 62 days as of October 31<sup>st</sup>; 26.2 days for current year claims and 35.8 for prior year claims.

The group then discussed various initiatives that would have the greatest impact on claim duration, and the critical importance of ensuring active case management has greater priority. Effective management of modified work claims was also identified as an issue important to employers. Development of more meaningful metrics was also discussed. The group will meet again in January to finalize an action plan for 2026.

## Psych Injury Working Group (PIWG)

The PIWG met on November 28<sup>th</sup>. WCB advised that changes to LCR reporting will be rolled out prior to year end that will include specific identification of primary and secondary psych claims.

## Government Engagement

A letter has been sent in follow-up to discussion with Minister Schow and his team at the September 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. We reiterated the priority items discussed and asked for a meeting to continue discussions regarding application of the egregious conduct provisions in legislation. The Minister was also invited to attend the March or June quarterly meeting.

## Upcoming ITF Association meetings

The next quarterly meeting will be held on Wednesday December 3<sup>rd</sup> starting at 8:30. The agenda includes the 2026 WCB premium rate presentation. The in-person meeting is at the Holiday Inn Edmonton Airport in Nisku.  
November 2025