

# 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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## **Policy Consultation**

The Industry Custom Pricing (ICP) Policy was approved by the WCB Board of Directors and will be posted on the WCB website June 4<sup>th</sup>. The policy change provides for automatic repolling every 5 years but industries can request early repolling after the third year. The polling question has also been changed and employers will be asked to confirm if they want to continue in ICP. If more than 50% vote to continue the industry will carry on but if fewer than 50% vote to continue ICP the industry will return to standard pricing. WCB is currently finalizing letters and supporting material. Repolling of the first group of industries should commence the third week of June and is expected to include the Mining and Petroleum Development and Construction sectors.

The ITF Policy Consultation Subcommittee met on May 9<sup>th</sup> to discuss member feedback on the consultation questions and to prep for the stakeholder discussion on May 13<sup>th</sup>. A discussion document and recommendation will be included in the June 12<sup>th</sup> meeting agenda package.

## **ELP Working Group**

This group met on May 8<sup>th</sup> and had a productive discussion. WCB provided an update in follow-up to ITF issues raised in the initial meeting. WCB has been receptive to hearing from ITF subcommittee members about the gaps and challenges they see with respect to how ELP decisions are made, reviews post award, and suggestions for new approaches and strategies to mitigate costs. The group will meet again on June 18<sup>th</sup>.

## **Medical & Appeals Performance Review**

In follow-up to the April 18<sup>th</sup> letter to Adrienne Lozinski, members of the Executive met with WCB on May 31<sup>st</sup> to discuss the 17 recommendations that involve the WCB as well as those deemed out of scope. WCB highlighted the specific actions that have been taken or that are underway for each of the WCB related recommendations. Emphasis was placed on the WCB's commitment to continuing to improve on the areas identified in the review, notwithstanding that many have been deemed to be concluded since the review was completed.

WCB emphasized that significant time was invested in conversations with the Ministry and sharing of information

as well as jurisdictional benchmarks. From the perspective of the Ministry, items were deemed to be out of scope if the recommendation did not reduce red tape, reduce costs, improve cycle time or if the data upon which the recommendation was based did not accurately reflect changes that had already been made. The role and current DRDRB processes are areas that will be further discussed. Additional detail will be provided at our June 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## **Physiotherapy Services**

The ITF subcommittee met on May 29<sup>th</sup> to discuss priorities for 2024 in advance of the stakeholder (ITF/LC/WCB) meeting on May 30<sup>th</sup>. Much of the stakeholder meeting focused on discussion of the Physiotherapy Update and Quarterly Metrics reports. The need for development of targets rather than only tracking 2024 vs 2023 values, reinforcement of action needed for NTL claims with more than 6 weeks of physiotherapy and desired changes for the upcoming contract renewal were also discussed. This is an agenda item on June 12<sup>th</sup>.

## **Access to Information**

In follow-up to the April 18<sup>th</sup> letter to Wendy King, WCB advised that an internal team has been struck to review the current WCB redaction rules for appropriateness. Several process enhancements have also been made to address information sharing concerns. Action continues on this item.

## **Upcoming ITF Association meetings**

The next guest presentation webinar is on Wednesday June 5<sup>th</sup> starting at 1:00. The first session will be the biannual update from the Appeals Commission. Dr Peter Smith with the Institute of Work & Health will discuss his research on how return to work differs for older workers as the second topic. Occupational Health & Safety will then provide their update and discuss the OHS budget and metrics. A Claims Management Roundtable will close the webinar. If you would like to participate and have not yet registered please contact Melanie.

The next quarterly meeting is on Wednesday June 12<sup>th</sup> starting at 8:30 am. Minister Jones has been invited to this meeting. The in-person meeting is at the Holiday Inn Edmonton Airport in Nisku.

May 2024