

May 24, 2017

Dear Stakeholder:

I am writing today to invite your organization to provide feedback on the legislative recommendations of the Workers' Compensation Act Committee of Review (Committee of Review).

As you may be aware, the Committee of Review's report, which was released on November 10, 2016, contains eleven recommendations for improvements of the workers' compensation system. Three of these recommendations would require amendments to *The Workers' Compensation Act, 2013* to implement. I am asking your organization to focus on these recommendations at this time. They include:

1. Modernize Board structure to reflect the diversity of skill sets required to guide the work of the WCB. This can be achieved through expanding the Board structure to include seven-members - three full-time members and four part-time members with equal representation from both employer and employee groups (Recommendation 2).
2. Establish an Employer Resource Centre, coordinated through the Office of the Workers' Advocate, dedicated to helping employers navigate the workers' compensation system (Recommendation 8).
3. Repeal sections 173 and 174 of *The Workers' Compensation Act, 2013* to comply with the provisions of *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and update the WCB's privacy policy to align with the changes (Recommendation 7).

The full report can be found at: <http://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/public-consultations/past-consultations/workers-compensation-act-review#report-and-recommendations>

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The Government is focusing consultations on Board governance and the appeals process. The issue of Board governance has been a recurring issue in Committee of Review reports for a significant number of years. The recommendations of successive Committees of Review have included expansion of the Board, establishment of an external appeal process as well as improvements to make the Board more efficient in adjudicating appeals. Given the various approaches of these Committees of Review, I would ask your organization to give particular consideration to the recommendation of the Committee of Review as well as the alternative of a final level of appeal external to the Workers' Compensation Board. This could take the form of an independent appeal body, or as part of an existing appeal body, for example, the Automobile Injury Appeal Commission.

A consultation paper has been prepared which provides information about the Board structure and appeal processes in Saskatchewan and in other jurisdictions. The discussion paper can be found at: <http://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/public-consultations>

In order to prepare legislative amendments for the fall 2017 session of the Legislative Assembly I would ask that you provide your written comments to:

Mr. Mike Carr, Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety  
300 – 1870 Albert Street  
REGINA SK S4P 4W1

Or by email to: [legislation.labour@gov.sk.ca](mailto:legislation.labour@gov.sk.ca)

If you have any questions on this matter, please contact Pat Parenteau, Director of Policy, at 306-787-8409. The deadline for submissions is June 30, 2017.

I hope that your organization will participate in these important consultations.

Sincerely,



Don Morgan, Q.C.