

ISSUE IN FOCUS



Celebrating 100 Years

SASKATCHEWAN
CHAMBER of COMMERCE

Workers' Compensation Act Committee of Review: Board Governance and Appeals

Background:

The Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce submitted comments to the Workers' Compensation Act Committee of Review discussion paper that was released in May 2017.

Issue:

Upon further review of the recommendations outlined in the discussion paper, we are calling on the WCB to implement the changes around Board Governance and Structure and Appeals

Recommendations:

1. The total number of board members be increased above and beyond the current legislated maximum of five-persons to seven persons with equal representation from both employers and employees along with an independent Chair.
2. All members of the board, including the Chair move from full-time to part-time status.
3. The use of a formal skill-set matrix and a professional search process in identifying qualified candidates for the Board Chair position is recommended.
4. While the Chamber is aware of the advantages of opening up the board to the public interest and having public interest representatives and their resources be available to the board, the Chamber is opposed to public interest representatives serving on the board. Employers are the sole funders of the WCB through their annual premiums and worker representation is mandated by law. The Chamber maintains that non-industry representatives should not be granted the ability to make decisions that directly impact industry. Echoing the concerns

of the Saskatchewan Construction Association and other industry stakeholders, the Chamber maintains that there should be no third-party representation on the Board.

5. That the term "labour organizations" as outlined in The Workers' Compensation Act, 2013 be amended to allow for non-unionized workers to serve as employee representatives on the Board.
6. The Chamber recommends the creation of an independent avenue for final-level appeals. The final level of appeal should be external to the WCB consistent with all other jurisdictions across Canada
7. Given the two competing options of having an independent, arm's length appeal body separate from all other appeal bodies versus having one that is incorporated into an existing arm's length appeal body (e.g. SGI Automobile Injury Appeal Commission), the Chamber tentatively recommends the former as the preferred avenue for moving forward.

History:

Adopted Policy Resolution 2015

Letter to Minister of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety 2017