Policy Consultation Advisory Group



MINUTES

Virtual Teams meeting

July 5, 2023

Attendees:

Employer representatives

Darren Ferleyko University of Calgary

Craig Hrynchuk Alberta Municipal Health and Safety Association

Michael Johnstone Alberta Roadbuilders & Heavy Construction Association

Boris Makale Civeo

Worker representatives

Dewey Funk United Nurses of Alberta

Steve Westcott United Food & Commercial Workers Union Local 401

WCB-Alberta representatives

Wendy King Senior Vice President, Operations & Innovation

William Ostapek Secretary & General Counsel

Marcela Matthew Vice President, Millard Health & Special Care Services

Adrianne Lozinski Associate Vice President, Operations

Wanda Stephens Manager, Policy Development Leslie Henkel Board of Directors' Secretariat

Agenda item

Review of Agenda & Opening Comments

William reviewed the agenda and provided opening comments. There were no changes or additions to the agenda.

2023-25 Policy Project Plan - Q2 update

Wanda provided an overview of the Q2 update of the 2023-25 Policy Project Plan, including a new policy application on firefighters' presumptive cancers that reflects legislative and regulatory changes. The current version of the Policy Project plan can be found here:

https://www.wcb.ab.ca/about-wcb/policy-and-legislation/policy-development-and-consultation/

Working remotely - Policy 02-01 - next steps

Wanda provided an update that the Board of Directors approved changes to Policy 02-01, effective Sept 1, 2023.

Adrianne provided an overview of the external engagement and the value of their feedback, including a session with ITF that helped refine policy language and format, while reinforcing that compensation principles have not changed.

Fact sheets will be developed to be published along with the Sept 1, 2023, policy changes. Best practices will be incorporated into employer seminars, including written agreements regarding designated workspaces. For training, consistency will be a priority.



Industry Custom Pricing – Policy 07-02, Part II, Application 7

It was noted that process improvements can be made without major policy change. Some wording changes may be required in policy, but these may not need consultation, which will allow process changes to move forward more quickly.

To Do: Adrianne to follow-up with ITF on specific issues on July 17/23.

Safety Association Grants – Policy 07-03

Adrianne noted that ITF's concern with safety association grants is a matter of process, not policy. PCAG members recognized that most of their concerns around safety associations are out of WCB's control.

Policy project planning - consultation

Wanda gave an overview on the upcoming consultation on WCB's rolling multi-year policy project plan. WCB actively gathers feedback on the plan every two years.

There was discussion about

- best practices on gathering input
- shifting focus to consistency of process/application and interpretation of policy
- looking at the process and/or policy around the use of medical evidence
- using PCAG to discuss whether items are process issues

The consultation is available on the website from July 5 to October 3, 2023.

Future meeting dates

Plan to have a meeting late September / early October. Online is easier than in person.

To Do: Wanda will follow-up with proposed meeting dates.

Other business

There was no other business.

To Do: Wanda will share the draft minutes with the group.