

Custom Job Search Benefit Support

If your work injury or illness requires you to find alternative employment, WCB can help.

Returning to work

As you work closely with your case manager and plan for your recovery and return to work, take the opportunity to ask questions about return-to-work alternatives. While our priority is to help you and your employer achieve a successful accommodation back to work in the same job, a modified version of the job or a new role altogether, we will also strive to help you plan alternatives, if accommodation is not possible.

Re-employment support for you

Part of this planning involves a referral to a re-employment service provider with expertise in job coaching. The service provider, a re-employment specialist, will take time to get to know you, your skills, work experience and work interests to help you identify new job opportunities that support your safe re-entry into the workforce.

As a team, you, the re-employment specialist and your case manager may identify opportunities for some skill development (like computer classes) and job research to understand what jobs are out there that are suitable for you. This process takes time but will help you define a job target to pursue once you are fit to resume employment safely.

A fully supported job search

Part of the re-employment support available to you is a financially supported job search, combined with coaching on job search techniques, interview skills and more. With the help of the re-employment specialist, you will have selected a job goal. With this goal in mind, you may begin an active job search with the encouragement and expertise of the re-employment service provider to help you along the way.

Benefit length

A supported job search typically lasts up to 16 weeks (approx. 4 months).

During that time, your dedicated re-employment specialist will work with you to identify viable job leads.

Prepared with an updated resume, you will have the support and confidence to participate in interviews to help you secure new employment.

Benefit extensions

Not all injured workers will experience the same path to a successful job search. Some may need a little more support in the form of time and/or additional resources (like one-on-one coaching). WCB and your re-employment service provider will review your personal circumstances and may determine you need more time to succeed with your job search.

Extension considerations

The first consideration is your commitment to the job search. If you are engaged and working hard to succeed, but have been unable to find at least two viable job leads, the re-employment specialist may recommend an extension to your job search to reflect the regional unemployment rate in your area.

WCB looks at Alberta's seven economic regions and utilizes Government of Alberta information for the most up to date unemployment rates that could be impacting you and your search.

Depending on how long you worked for your date of accident employer (5 months or less, 6 months, between 7 and 11 months, or 12 months or more), regional unemployment rates may lead to additional weeks of financial support.

Additional extension considerations include:

1. Have you achieved a high school diploma?
2. Do you need an interpreter?
3. Are you 60 and over at the time of the job search?
4. Were you totally disabled and away from work due to injury longer than two years?

Independent research* confirms these personal factors may impact your job search, so they will be considered as your job search progresses.

Any extension granted ends when two viable leads have been identified for you. The maximum time available for a supported job search is 45 weeks, for complex cases.

Lead your job search

WCB will support you and your success. Take charge of your job search and ask questions, be creative, ask friends, neighbours, and former colleagues or your former employer for leads. You never know where a great lead may come from and you don't want to risk missing it.

WCB will make every reasonable effort to support you in your job search. We want you to recover your independence and succeed.

* R.A. Malatest & Associates Ltd.

