

The Workers' Compensation Amendment Act, 2024

Amendments have been introduced to *The Workers' Compensation Act* that if passed would make Saskatchewan a leader in providing compensation and help address concerns from employers and injured workers and their families. If passed the Act would come into force by order of the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

Expanding occupational disease presumption coverage:

- Clause 28(3)(a): expands coverage to wildland firefighters for 22 forms of cancer and heart injury.
- This change will ensure that presumptive coverage applies to all firefighters and ensure that wildland firefighters have easier access to compensation.
- Only Manitoba, British Columbia and Ontario currently include presumptive coverage for wildland firefighters.

Voluntary coverage for out-of-province workers:

- Section 34 will expand coverage for out-of-province workers whose normal place of residence is Canada.
- By providing voluntary coverage to Saskatchewan workers outside our province, if approved by the Workers' Compensation Board, will make Saskatchewan a leader in providing compensation for workers compared to other Canadian jurisdictions.
- Section 187 clause (a.11) will be added to provide regulation making authority to prescribe other out-of-province workers.

Housekeeping amendments:

- Subsection 2(1) clauses (g), (p), dd and (ff.1) amendments will ensure that chiropractors, health care professionals, physicians and psychiatrists licensed in other jurisdictions are covered under the Act.
- Section 11 is being amended to allow board members to continue to complete proceedings after their term of appointment expires.
- Section 23.1 will enable regulations to be made to specify the manner of publishing appeals made by the full-time board members.
- Section 187 Clause (d.1) would be added to provide regulation making authority to specify the manner of publishing appeal tribunal decisions.
- Subsection 100(3) would ensure Saskatchewan residents or out-of-province workers, who are imprisoned outside Saskatchewan, can have their compensation suspended.