

WCBUPDATE

Summer 2024

WCB distributes \$118 million in surplus funds

For the fifth time in six years, the Workers Compensation Board of Manitoba (WCB) is distributing surplus funds to employers whose premiums fund the workers compensation system. This distribution is made possible by the WCB's prudent stewardship of its reserve fund, which is guided by a commitment to offer stable employer premiums, and protect Manitoba's workforce now and in the future. The WCB may distribute funds that have accumulated beyond the level necessary to achieve these goals, while ensuring long-term sustainability of the system.

"We're pleased to announce the distribution of surplus funds to our valued employers," says Catherine Skinner, the WCB's Acting President and CEO. "Our commitment to sound financial management, a stable reserve fund and ongoing work in system improvements have allowed us to return \$118 million to Manitoba employers. We believe employers will benefit from this financial support as they continue to navigate extended periods of high interest rates and inflation."

In May, eligible employers received a credit equivalent to 50 per cent of their 2023 premium. To qualify for the refund credit, employers must have fulfilled their 2023 payroll reporting responsibilities and owed a WCB premium in 2023. Employers who have not yet reported their 2023 payroll can still submit their information to receive the surplus distribution.

Review your estimated payroll

Earlier in the year, all employers provided an estimate of their expected payroll. If you anticipate the estimate you provided has, or could, change by more than 25 per cent up or down as a total for the year, let us know. This will minimize the potential of having interest calculated on your account due to a significant difference.

If there is a change, contact us and be sure to include your account number:

Assessment Services
Phone: 204-954-4505
Within Canada toll free: 1-855-954-4321, ext. 4505
Fax: 204-954-4900
Email: assessmentservices@wcb.mb.ca
Chat: wcb.mb.ca/contact-wcb and click on start chat.

Hiring a contractor

If you're hiring a contractor to work for your business, it's your responsibility as an employer to make sure that the contractor has WCB coverage – either classified under their own business or under yours.

To find out if a contractor has WCB coverage, you can check our online clearance system at wcb.mb.ca/clearances. You can search by name to find out if a business is covered and in good standing with the WCB.

If your contractor doesn't have WCB coverage or isn't in good standing, they are considered your worker for the duration of their contract and should be included under your business' WCB coverage. Learn more at wcb.mb.ca/i-am-hiring-a-contractor.

Nominations open for excellence in workplace first aid award

St. John Ambulance and SAFE Work Manitoba have once again partnered to award an organization that exemplifies excellence in their commitment and implementation of first aid programming in the workplace.

Nominations for the 2024 Award for Excellence in Workplace First Aid are now open. Recipients of this award will demonstrate how they exceeded the Manitoba Workplace Safety and Health Act and Regulations compliance standards when providing workplace first aid. This can include connecting first aid to other parts of workplace safety and health programming and workplace injury and illness prevention efforts.

Nominations are open until August 2, 2024. Scan the QR code for more details.





10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



SAFE WORK MANITOBA
A division of the WCB

WCB
Workers Compensation Board of Manitoba

OCTOBER 23 8:30AM-4PM
VICTORIA INN HOTEL & CONVENTION CENTRE

SCAN TO REGISTER



Seasonal businesses

If you operate a seasonal business - that is, you operate and employ workers for only part of the year - you don't need to close your WCB account at the end of your season. There's no cost to keeping your account open year-round, and you'll benefit from less paperwork and administrative requirements, potential rate decreases depending on your claim experience and active account status and in good standing through the WCB Clearance system.

When you close your business at the end of the season, you don't need to do anything. We'll send you a request for annual payroll information in January so you can report your actual payroll from the previous year and provide us with an estimate of your anticipated payroll for the current year.

The WCB offers flexible payment options for seasonal operations. For information, visit wcb.mb.ca/seasonal-business-faq.

Policy and regulatory updates

New policy on conflicting health care evidence and opinions

We all know how important medical evidence is for adjudicating claims. It can help the WCB determine the type and duration of benefits injured workers are entitled to. But sometimes health care providers have differing opinions on the same claim, which can be challenging to assess. A new policy, Conflicting Health Care Evidence and Opinions (44.05.20), outlines the steps the WCB will take to fairly evaluate and weigh any conflicting health care evidence and opinions on a claim. The new policy comes into effect July 1, 2024.

New diseases added to the occupational disease regulation

Last year, Manitoba's Occupational Diseases Regulation came into force, providing the WCB with a new tool for adjudicating occupational disease claims. The regulation lists 23 occupational diseases where work is presumed to be the dominant cause (unless proven otherwise). The WCB recently added six more occupational diseases to the list: three poisonings (mercury, ammonia, and chlorine) and three asbestos-associated cancers. The changes to the regulation come into force on September 1, 2024.

To review the new policy, and for more information on regulatory updates, visit the WCB website at wcb.mb.ca/policy-legislation.

SAFE Roads launches spring campaign

The SAFE Roads spring campaign kicked off last month with media events in Winnipeg and Brandon. This year's campaign echoes last year's message—They're Not in Your Way, They're at Work. It reminds motorists to slow down and drive with extra caution so road workers can work safely.

"These roads are more than just a means to get from one place to another. These are workplaces for many Manitobans," said Dave Kramer, Vice President of WCB's SAFE Work Manitoba division. "Speeding through a construction zone or ignoring traffic signs will not only cost you a ticket, but it can also cost someone their livelihood, or even their life."

The campaign runs until the end of June on social media, radio and billboards. Learn more at safemanitoba.com/campaigns/pages/safe-roads-manitoba.

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