

WCB VOICE



June 2018

Efficiencies Save Manitoba Employers \$18 Million



The WCB's 2017 Annual Report and Five Year Plan was recently tabled at the Legislature. The WCB has been on a mission to re-engineer the workers compensation system to make it more efficient and responsive. The hard work is paying off and, in 2017, Manitoba employers paid \$18 million less in premiums to fund the system.

"We have made great advancements in how we operate our business while still maintaining our excellent

benefits and services to injured workers," said Winston Maharaj, President and CEO of the WCB. "Our focused efforts in Return to Work, revamping our rate model to be more fair and balanced, along with our continued efforts working with employers and workers to reduce workplace injuries and illnesses are seeing tangible results."

The WCB covers 77 per cent of Manitoba workers and serves over 36,000 employers. In 2017, the WCB achieved an operating surplus of \$57 million while still lowering the average assessment rate to \$1.10. The 2018 average assessment rate will be reduced a further 14 per cent to \$0.95.

"Our strong and prudent financial stewardship, along with our decisive actions in revamping the workers compensation system, is the result of strong engagement with our customers, our partners and stakeholders," said Maharaj. "Our time loss injury rate remained stable at 2.9. Efforts in returning workers

to health and meaningful work is improving with the average days paid for wage loss claims coming in at 31.7 days compared to 32.5 in 2016."

The sound financial principles demonstrated by the WCB allowed the company to weather the market crash in 2008 while also maintaining or lowering average assessment rates. The WCB now has a surplus well above the 130 per cent reserve fund target and the same prudent approach will be taken to return the surplus to employers in the near future.

"We are currently working on a plan that will return the surplus funds to employers beginning in 2019," said Maharaj. "The foreseeable future has us maintaining an average assessment rate at \$0.95 while still meeting our reserve fund target. Overall, our company's financial sustainability is secure while we continue to offer the comprehensive benefits and services that injured workers rely on today and into the future."

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Suspected Non-Compliance? Call Our Tip Line

Workers, employers and healthcare providers all have rights and responsibilities to help ensure a strong and responsive compensation system is here for those who need it.

If you have information about suspected non-compliance or program abuse, don't forget that you can submit it anonymously by calling 204-888-8081 in Winnipeg, toll free 1-844-888-8081 or by email at Compliance@wcb.mb.ca.

All tips will be investigated by the Compliance Services department and, where appropriate, action will be taken in order to protect the integrity of the compensation system.

Circle September 26 on your Calendar!

If you're a workplace safety and health committee co-chair, plan to join us for the **SAFE Work Manitoba Committee Leadership Conference** at the Victoria Inn in Winnipeg.



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