

WCB INSIDER

June 2019

WCB's 2018 Annual Report Focuses on Injury Prevention and Volatile Financial Markets

The Workers Compensation Board of Manitoba's (WCB) 2018 Annual Report was recently made public. The report highlights continued gains in reducing workplace injuries, with a time loss injury rate of 2.6* per 100 full time workers, a 26 per cent decrease from 10 years ago. The WCB also released its 2019-2023 Five Year Plan.

SAFE Work Manitoba, a division of the WCB, continued to support Manitoba industries in creating and nurturing safe and healthy workplaces with the ongoing support and expansion of industry-based safety programs. These services include guiding employers through the process of becoming SAFE Work Certified – a provincial standard developed by SAFE Work Manitoba for safety and health performance in the workplace. There were tremendous strides made in lowering injuries and as a result the WCB experienced an eight per cent decrease in time loss claims from the previous year.

Today, more and more employers are recognizing the benefits of becoming SAFE Work Certified. "We introduced a Prevention Rebate program that rewards employers for meeting this safety standard," said Winston Maharaj, President and CEO. "In 2018, we had 882 employers become eligible for a total of \$5.6 million in Prevention Rebates."

The WCB entered 2018 in a healthy financial position, with strong reserves and a diversified investment portfolio



but a volatile fourth quarter resulted in losses to our investments," said Maharaj. "While we ended the year with an operating deficit of \$53 million, our prudent financial stewardship over the years ensured we continue to run a surplus in our funding reserve of 148.2 per cent, which is well above our 130 per cent

target."The WCB has developed a framework to return a portion of the surplus to employers later this year.

***Estimated, to be confirmed mid-2019.**





Follow us on Twitter  @WCBManitoba

Your Industry Classification - How You Fit In

As an employer, when you register with the WCB, you're placed in an industry classification. Industry classifications are made up of employers who operate in similar activities and therefore have a similar level of risk. Each industry classification is assigned a risk category that describes their level of risk - or cost of injuries - compared to the system average.

As of 2019, we've added more risk categories to our classifications - moving from nine to eighteen - to add more flexibility. As your industry's experience evolves, there are now more opportunities for your risk category to shift towards the experience driven by your industry. Movement between risk categories will begin for 2022 rates.

We maintain a classification system as a first step in helping to ensure that all employers pay their fair share of the costs of the workers compensation system while adhering to collective liability.

How we classify your business

activities is important because it determines the range of rates that you pay. Employers are assigned to one or more industry classifications based on their primary business activity.

Some of the factors that determine your industry classification include:

- Operational and production processes;
- Use of similar equipment;
- End products or services;
- Customer base;
- Competitors; and
- Ancillary businesses.

Your industry classification can change as a result of:

- A WCB-initiated industry review; or
- A request from the employer - for example, if an employer believes they are in the wrong industry classification or if their activities have evolved over time. If there are changes to your business that you feel might impact your industry classification, please



contact us at 204-954-4505 or toll free at 1-855-954-4321, extension 4505.

For more information, visit **wcb.mb.ca > Employer > Workers Compensation Coverage** and then click on 'Learn more about Industry Classifications.'

New Look for your Annual Rate Statement

Your annual rate statement is getting a fresh new look.

With illustrative graphics, bright colors and customized information that details your performance and how you compare against your peers, we've redesigned your annual rate

statement to help enhance your understanding of your rates and illustrate the value of your WCB coverage.

Watch for it to be delivered later this year.

Follow Us



Return undeliverable copies to:
WCB Communications, 333 Broadway, Winnipeg, MB R3C 4W3
Telephone: (204) 954-4760 Fax: (204) 954-4968

PM 40062754