

The WCB's Scientific Research Priorities for the 2018 Call for Applications

1. Timely, Meaningful and Sustainable Return to Work/Stay at Work

This Scientific Research Priority for the 2018 Call for Applications under the Research and Workplace Innovation Program (RWIP) is consistent with the WCB's commitment to promote the value of Return to Work (RTW) and supporting best practices in RTW. Under the WCB's Five Year Plan RTW includes helping workplaces increase the effectiveness of their RTW programs, delivering RTW training, and ensuring the WCB provides quality services that assist workers to return to meaningful and productive work as soon as medically fit after an injury and illness.

Examples of potential research topics under this Research Priority may include studies that:

- ❖ Explore the interrelationships between prevention, early intervention and RTW to identify practices that support successful RTW outcomes in Manitoba workplaces;
- ❖ Investigate the effect on claim duration of RTW practices for specific industry sectors that would reveal and provide evidence for the barriers, facilitators and related issues of RTW and/or stay at work; and
- ❖ Identify and examine best practices for RTW and disability management programming in Manitoba, including the development of leading indicators and predictive factors of successful RTW.

2. Assessment, Screening, Monitoring and Control of Physical, Chemical and Biological Exposure Agents in the Workplace

This Scientific Research Priority is carried over from 2017 to reflect the recent establishment of SAFE Work Manitoba's Prevention Strategy on Occupational Disease and Illness. This Strategy will use four tactics to strengthen occupational disease and illness prevention in Manitoba workplaces:

- ❖ Monitoring workers' exposures to physical and chemical hazards.
- ❖ Identifying exposure levels and effective safety controls based on evidence from the monitoring.

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- ❖ Educating and building awareness among all Manitobans about occupational disease and illness prevention.
- ❖ Strengthening partnerships to prevent occupational disease and illness.

Examples of potential research topics under this Scientific Research Priority may include studies that:

- ❖ Evaluate and review existing tools that assess and monitor toxic exposures;
- ❖ Identify deficits in the assessment of workplace exposure hazards; and
- ❖ Develop practical tools that are cost effective and easy to use for risk assessment and mitigation strategies in the workplace.

3. Other Topics within the RWIP Mandate

The WCB will continue to accept applications under the Scientific Research funding stream that are within the mandate of the RWIP but which do not address Research Priorities 1 and 2 above.