

ITF (Industry Task Force) Association

Effecting positive change in Workers' Compensation through the views of Alberta employers

April 3, 2017

The Honorable Christina Gray
Minister of Labour
107 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Gray:

I am writing on behalf of the ITF (Industry Task Force) Association regarding "ownership" of WCB funds resulting from premiums collected from employers.

Our membership noted with interest the recent announcement from WorkSafe BC (see copy attached). The BC government publicly acknowledges that employers fund the workers' compensation system and is taking steps to amend legislation to require that surplus funds be returned to employers when a threshold level of assets over liabilities is reached. The view of the BC government is that money paid to WCB Boards through premiums as well as the additional income earned through investment of the premiums collected from employers is "employer money."

Although WCB Alberta has some provisions in policy, we do not have a similar requirement enshrined in legislation. In addition, there is a general lack of awareness among both stakeholders and the public regarding responsibility for funding WCB. We noted that during the discussion of Board CEO salaries at no time did the government clarify that the salary of Mr. Guy Kerr was not being paid by government; rather it is employers of Alberta that fund the WCB. Funding of the OHS I&E grants is another example where government did not disclose that the program is fully employer funded through WCB premiums.

We are bringing this news release to your attention and requesting that a legislative amendment be tabled that would clarify WCB premiums and income earned on premiums remain "employer money", and that also requires surplus funds be returned to employers when the funding level is exceeded. We urge your office to take advantage of the opportunity to pass this amendment when legislation is reviewed this year. This will help to bring about an end to the misinformation regarding funding of WCB and ensure that any surplus funds are returned to employers.

As noted by Ms. Bond, returning surplus funds to employers will help to drive growth and job creation. This view is shared by the ITF Association and other stakeholders.

I can be reached directly at (403) 260-4086 to discuss this in greater detail. Please direct any correspondence to our Association Administrator, Melanie Goroniuk. Contact information is below.

Yours truly,



Darren Ferleyko
President, ITF Association

Cc Honorable Rachel Notley, Premier
Attachments (2)