

WSIB

POLICY AGENDA



OVERVIEW

The Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB)'s **Framework for Operational Policy Development and Renewal** ("Framework") describes the WSIB's commitment to ensure its benefits and revenue policies are up to date, clear, and provide appropriate guidance to staff and the public regarding their application.

The Framework supports the objectives of the **2016-2018 Strategic Plan** and reflects the WSIB's approach to policy consultation that balances the benefits of consultation with the importance of timely policy development and respect for the finite capacity and resources of both the WSIB and its stakeholders.

It is within the Framework that annual Policy Agendas are developed, comprised in part of priority policies requiring substantive revision and stakeholder consultation. Policies scheduled for review are also included on the agenda and may be evaluated independently or, where appropriate, as part of a larger program review. In addition, while not included on the agenda, in order to ensure policies are kept up to date, each year a number of policies may be identified for "housekeeping"¹ revisions.

While past agendas have focused primarily on policy items that will involve stakeholder consultation, in line with the WSIB's commitment to open communication and service excellence, items that will not necessarily involve stakeholder consultation have also been included on the 2018 Policy Agenda.

All policy changes are posted on the WSIB's Policy updates/clarifications page. Unanticipated policy priorities may also need to be addressed as they arise throughout the year.

The 2018 policy priorities are driven by:

- alignment with legislative/regulatory provisions and amendments
- strategic directions
- business area requirements
- scientific or medical advances, Appeals Resolution Officer (ARO) / Workplace Safety and Insurance Appeals Tribunal (WSIAT) decisions, court rulings
- external stakeholder input and feedback
- scheduled policy review dates/length of time since last review

The 2018 Policy Agenda is organized into three sections:

1) New Projects

2) Ongoing Policy Projects

¹ "Housekeeping" revisions are non-substantive changes which include:

- consequential revisions resulting from legislative/regulatory amendments or changes made to other policies;
- correction of outdated or inaccurate information/terminology;
- correction of typographical or grammatical errors; and/or
- updates to legislative references and others.

3) Policies Scheduled for Cyclical Review

Our main focus in 2018 will be supporting the following new and ongoing projects:

- Update Funding Policy
- Expansion of PTSD Presumption
- Chronic Mental Stress
- Rate Framework
- Aluminum Exposure
- Medical Assistance in Dying

POLICY AGENDA 2018 -NEW POLICY PROJECTS

TOPIC	DESCRIPTION	POLICY REFERENCE
<p>Update Funding Policy</p>	<p>The Workplace Safety and Insurance Act, 1997 (WSIA) requires the WSIB to maintain the insurance fund so the amount in the fund is sufficient to meet its obligations under the WSIA.</p> <p>The current funding policy provides direction to the WSIB when making funding decisions to provide for the costs of the workers' compensation system through employer premiums and investment earnings.</p> <p>As the WSIB approaches full funding, the WSIB will review, engage with key stakeholders, and update this policy to guide the Board of Directors in making its funding decisions in support of achieving, and maintaining, full funding.</p>	<p>Revising</p> <p>Workplace Safety and Insurance Board Funding Policy</p>
<p>Expansion of PTSD Presumption</p>	<p>The provincial government has announced its intention to introduce amendments to the WSIA that expand the list of first responder occupations entitled to presumptive coverage for posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD).</p> <p>If passed, the WSIB will make policy changes as necessary to implement the legislative amendments.</p> <p>As per the Framework for Operational Policy Development and Renewal, no stakeholder consultation is planned.</p>	<p>Revising</p> <p>15-03-13, Posttraumatic Stress Disorder in First Responders and Other Designated Workers</p>

POLICY AGENDA 2018 –ONGOING POLICY PROJECTS

TOPIC	DESCRIPTION	POLICY REFERENCE
Chronic Mental Stress	<p>With the revised chronic mental stress legislation and policy taking effect in January 2018, WSIB efforts in 2018 will be focused on supporting implementation.</p> <p>A number of updates to operational policies may be required as a consequence of the related legislative and program changes.</p> <p>As only consequential revisions are contemplated, no stakeholder consultation is planned.</p>	
Rate Framework Modernization	<p>Following a multi-year development phase and extensive stakeholder consultations, the WSIB Board of Directors approved the rate framework in November 2016. The WSIB is in the process of consulting on the seven draft core policies and considering the submissions received from stakeholders to date.</p> <p>In addition to the seven policies that are being consulted on, there are 32 other policies that require review and possible revision in order to implement the rate framework and housekeeping changes to another 30 policies may also be required.</p> <p>The WSIB will continue to refine the policies so that they may be finalized and posted in advance of the implementation of the Rate Framework in 2020.</p> <p>The public consultation period has been extended to January 15, 2018 (original end date was October 13, 2017).</p>	<p>Reviewing/Revising</p> <p>Employer Classification Policies revised to reflect new classification approach and structure</p> <p>Experience Rating and Adjustments Policies rescinded and replaced with new rate setting and adjustments policies to reflect new premium rate setting approach</p> <p>Other OPM policies, as required</p>
Aluminum Exposure (McIntyre Powder)	<p>In 2017, the Occupational Aluminum Exposure policy was rescinded and removed from the Operational Policy Manual (OPM).</p> <p>As part of the ongoing work on this topic, the WSIB has engaged researchers from the Occupational Cancer Research Centre (OCRC), based at Cancer Care Ontario, to conduct a new independent study. This will provide the WSIB with a better understanding of the relationship between the use of McIntyre Powder in Ontario mines and the development of neurologic health outcomes in former miners.</p> <p>It is not expected that the results of this review will be received until 2019.</p>	<p>Rescinded</p> <p>16-01-10, Occupational Aluminum Exposure, Dementia, Alzheimer's Disease and Other Neurologic Effects</p>
Medical Assistance in Dying	<p>As a result of Bill 84, the <i>Medical Assistance in Dying Statute Law Amendment Act, 2016</i> enacted by the provincial government, the WSIA was amended in May of 2017.</p> <p>A new policy and updates to operational policies may be required as a result of the legislative amendment.</p> <p>No stakeholder consultation is planned.</p>	<p>OPM policies as required</p>

POLICY AGENDA 2018 –POLICIES SCHEDULED FOR CYCLICAL REVIEW

TOPIC	DESCRIPTION	POLICY REFERENCE
<p>Work Reintegration Policies</p>	<p>As a result of significant changes to its Labour Market Re-entry (LMR) and Return to Work (RTW) programs in 2010, a suite of Work Reintegration policies took effect in 2011 and 2012 and contained a requirement to review the policies within 5 years of the application date.</p> <p>Since the suite of policies are interrelated and support the seamless operation between the various WR stages, it was decided that they would be reviewed together to ensure they are up to date and continue to fulfill their purpose.</p> <p>The Operational Policy Branch will partner with the Return to Work Branch to review the program and policies to support continued improvement and reflect best practices.</p> <p>In the event substantial policy changes are considered, stakeholders will be consulted.</p>	<p>Reviewing</p> <p>19-02-01, Work Reintegration Principles, Concepts, and Definitions</p> <p>19-02-02, Responsibilities of the Workplace Parties in Work Reintegration</p> <p>19-02-04, Functional Abilities Form for Work Reintegration</p> <p>19-03-03, Determining Suitable Occupation</p> <p>19-03-05, Work Transition Plans</p> <p>19-03-06, Work Transition Expenses</p> <p>19-03-11, Relocation Services</p>