



WSIB Policy Agenda 2020

January 2020

Overview

The WSIB's [Framework for Operational Policy Development and Renewal](#) (Framework) describes the WSIB's commitment to ensure its Operational Policy Manual (OPM) documents are up-to-date, clear, and provide appropriate guidance to staff and the public regarding their application.

The WSIB Policy Agenda describes the policy items that the WSIB plans to focus on in the upcoming year. As outlined in the Framework, the main purpose of the Policy Agenda is to identify and provide to stakeholders advance notice of anticipated substantive items that may involve consultation. In line with the WSIB's commitment to open communication and service excellence, the Policy Agenda may also identify items that may not necessarily involve stakeholder consultation. Policies scheduled for review are also included and may be evaluated independently or, where appropriate, as part of a larger program review.

While not included on the Policy Agenda, each year a number of policies may be identified for "housekeeping"¹ revisions to ensure policies are kept up-to-date. Unanticipated policy items may also need to be addressed as they arise throughout the year.

The WSIB posts all policy changes to its [Policy updates/clarifications page](#).

The following factors are key drivers of the Policy Agenda in 2020:

- As the WSIB moves forward with its *2019-2021 Strategic Plan*, in particular activities to better meet customer needs and expectations, it will rely on the WSIB's policy area for advice and support.
- A number of projects from prior years are ongoing and continue to require policy leadership, advice, and support.
- As science and medicine evolve, the WSIB looks for new information that may help with evidence-based decision-making. The WSIB's policy area will be involved as appropriate where the WSIB commissions studies/reviews.
- Both the WSIB and its stakeholders have finite capacity and resources to participate in policy projects.

¹ "Housekeeping" means non-substantive changes, such as

- 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- correction of outdated or inaccurate information/terminology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.

Policy Agenda 2020

Throughout 2019 the WSIB's policy area provided advice and support regarding the transformational work underway at the WSIB to achieve the strategic priority to **better meet customers needs and expectations**. The policy area's engagement in this work will continue into 2020.

The successful completion and implementation of **Rate Framework Modernization** continues to be a priority. With the core policies complete, the focus will shift to making any necessary housekeeping policy revisions and supporting implementation.

The WSIB anticipates publishing any policy revisions arising out of the **Return-to-Work** policy review in 2020. Ongoing implementation advice and support will carry over into 2020, as well.

With Occupational Cancer Research Center's study into the impacts of **Occupational Aluminum Exposure** extending into 2020, the WSIB continues to monitor its progress and anticipates reviewing its results in 2020 along with the results and recommendations from **Dr. Paul Demers' Review on Occupational Cancer**.

The WSIB will also be reviewing and analyzing the recommendations from the **Ontario Government's Operational Review of the WSIB** and Policy will be supporting any resulting changes.

In 2019, the WSIB released its first **Medical Cannabis** policy, and along with it a commitment to stay up-to-date on the scientific and clinical evidence informing the policy guidelines. The WSIB plans to begin its first review of the scientific and clinical evidence in 2020.

As a result of legislative changes (2015's Bill 144 and 2017's Bill 127), the WSIB published a new policy about **annual indexing** (18-01-14, Annual Indexing) in 2018. As a new policy, it is subject to a two year review cycle and therefore will be reviewed in 2020.

In addition to the aforementioned items, the WSIB will maintain **policy capacity to support any potential legislative changes**.