

TO: The Workers Compensation Act Review
Legislative Review Committee 2016

February 15, 2017

FROM: [REDACTED]
Manitoba Citizens – Selkirk

RE: REVIEW OF THE WORKERS COMPENSATION ACT 2017

This letter is intended to compel the committee get back to considering the long-term effect on the employee.

For years, the WCB has become top heavy with board, management, fees, and irresponsible decisions that affect thousands of Manitobans on a daily basis.

The average 'worker Joe' is *not protected* by the "Workers" Compensation Board any longer. Rather it is another cash grab from employers. In most cases, the average citizen will have been subjected to an average *wait time* for compensation of *2 months*. Results: Putting the injured party at risk of losing their home, apartment, transportation and other medical needs. This has happened to our family.

Two members of our family have been affected by the decisions (lack) of the WCB. Both back injury patients. Both suffered *irreversible consequences* due to the lack of medical care provided. Endless doctor appointments; fuel, mileage, wear & tear on vehicles to city; NO PHYSIOTHERAPY; Lots Pills, Pills, Pills (which affect other organs and cause further complications); no surgery!

Lack of '*real world*' *knowledge* of employee profession leads to negative attitudes. An example: A sciatic nerve injury or 'slipped discs'. Persons who have experienced this know it is not a "bend down and pop – my back is out" situation. It usually is a strain on the muscles over a period of time that eventually gets worse and worse, until one day you cannot handle the pain anymore. So you request to fill out the WCB form at work. Trouble is....because this is a progressive problem that gets worse with time, then eases, then back to worse again – the injured party cannot site Date of Incident, Witnesses, etc. Medical persons have informed us that any surgery handled by WCB is a 65% success rate vs. Non WCB coverage success rate of 85%.

This lack of interest on the bottom line effect to the person who must live with injury for the rest of their lives without any help; threat of job loss if further injury occurs. In the case of unions – write up for minor offenses in order to get the potential 'money pit' employee of the books attitude. The continuous cutting of medications & services covered by MHSC, the long term possibility that these persons will be forced to go on to collect unemployment, social services, retraining, etc., comes out our pockets several times over. Instead of looking at the problem to resolve not just pass on until it goes away.

The attitude generally displayed by Manitoba government department is, “as long as it doesn’t come out of our coffers” – puts Manitoba and its conservative attitude further behind other progressive cultures.

We are begging you to update the legislation to include employment history, sick leaves, paid job retraining and placement; on the ground inspections of the job site and complete walk through of duties (confirmed with employee interviews); immediate financial help with garnishment; CUTS in all upper level positions and board positions. And above all, consider the **lifetime effect your decision has on each Manitoban.**

Thank you for your consideration,

