

Via email info@wcbreview.ca

July 17, 2019

WCB Review 2019
Attn: Donna Hanson, Review Coordinator
PO Box 97122 Stn Main
Richmond, B.C. V6X 8H3

Dear Donna,

The British Columbia Maritime Employers Association (BCMEA) welcomes the opportunity to participate in 2019 WorkSafeBC Compensation System Review and as a member of the Employers' Forum strongly endorses the submission from the Employer Community. The BCMEA represents approximately 54 waterfront employers and, by extension, the more than 9000 men and women who work for them.

The BCMEA makes the additional request of a thorough review of Item(s) No. II *Policies and Practices relating to Supporting Injured Workers Return to Work*, as referenced in the Employer Community submission document.

Current levels of communication with WorkSafeBC need to be improved. WorkSafeBC must allow Employers additional access through the Employers Portal in order to fully and effectively partner together with their Disability Prevention efforts. There is no better partner for WorkSafeBC to assist injured workers with a safe timely and durable return to work than the Employer, who remain understandably frustrated by their lack of access to relevant information. Enhancements to the Employer portal, while respecting privacy concerns, to better facilitate return to work planning is to the benefit of all stakeholders.

BCMEA Employers are committed to their workforce in providing a safe, healthy and productive environment, both before and subsequent to any injury that may occur. Employers all have comprehensive Recover at Work (RAW) programs, yet are stymied in their efforts to facilitate RAW as board officers blindly accept disabling comments from treating physicians. Efforts must be made to appropriately adjudicate disability and not accept unsubstantiated comments about non-ability to work that are not supported by sound rationale. Supporting this behavior with proposed Policy changes which pay workers to remain away from suitable work while month long investigations take place contradicts everything published on the prevention of needless disability.

The reduction in needless disability should be the goal for all stakeholders including WorkSafeBC, Workers and their Unions. Scientific studies support the principle of stay at work and Recover at Work programs as being in the best interests of workers. BCMEA Employers have witnessed many cases of needless disability resulting from workers who lose attachment to the workforce following an injury and end up in an unhealthy and unproductive situation.

The BCMEA encourages this Review with those additional guiding principles in mind.

Sincerely,



Gordon Rumohr PT

Manager, Claims Services
B.C. Maritime Employers Association

www.bcmea.com



Via email: Info@wcbreview.ca

July 30, 2019

Workers' Compensation System Review
PO BOX 97122 Stn Main
Richmond, B.C., V6X 8H3

Attn: Ms. Janet Patterson, Reviewer

The British Columbia Maritime Employers Association (BCMEA) provided a July 17, 2019 letter strongly endorsing the submission from the Employer Community. The BCMEA represents approximately 54 waterfront employers and, by extension, the more than 9000 men and women who work for them.

The BCMEA also endorses the July 30, 2019 Addendum submitted by the Employer Community, provided in response to the extension of time for submissions on Term of Reference 1 (f), the now released "Bogyo Report".

Noted in the Employer Community addendum submission, General Comments 1(b) are references of general support to changes to compensation benefits and presumed age of retirement, both issues affecting waterfront Workers. The BCMEA would though also be opposed to any application of retroactivity to these or other proposed legislative changes.

The BCMEA continues to encourage this Review with the guiding principles of the Employers Community July 19, 2019 submission and July 30, 2019 addendum in mind.

Sincerely,



Gordon Rumohr PT
Manager, Claims Services
B.C. Maritime Employers Association

www.bcmea.com