



December 7, 2021

Louise Greenberg, Chairperson
Workers' Compensation Act Committee of Review
wca-cor@gov.sk.ca

Dear Louise Greenberg:

Thank you for your letter of October 7, 2021, inviting the Ministry of Education (Education) to share its views and suggestions with the Workers' Compensation Act Committee of Review on the following:

- *The Workers' Compensation Act, 2013*;
- *The Workers' Compensation General Regulations, 1985*;
- *The Workers' Compensation Exclusions Regulations, 2014*; and,
- The administration of the Act and regulations.

Please consider this Education's written submission.

Education has collaborated with ministry colleagues at Advanced Education and Immigration and Career Training regarding the review. There was agreement this would be a good opportunity to transfer workers' compensation coverage from each ministry's Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Worker's Compensation Board (WCB) into legislation. Education's MOU with WCB provides workers' compensation coverage to students placed in work-based learning assignments.

Work-based learning that is provided within the context of an area of study assists students in making career development decisions, and affords them with opportunities, including:

- creating a connection between school and work;
- fostering community partnerships;
- emphasizing the relevance of theoretical and industry standard learnings through practical application in the workplace;
- developing students' skills and abilities through a practical approach;
- developing and enhancing students' employability and essential skills;
- providing students with an awareness of potential career paths; and,
- mutual benefit to students, employers and the community.

Work-based learning aligns with Saskatchewan's growth agenda. The Growth Plan identifies the province will "expand partnerships between industry and education so that students can

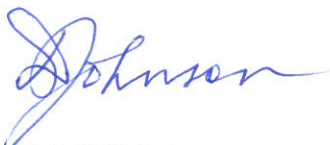
build the knowledge, skills and competencies needed to succeed in the world of work, while continuing elective programs for career-work education in high schools.” Establishing statutory support for this commitment will enhance the availability and sustainability of work-based learning opportunities.

In alignment with this provincial plan, Education intends to strengthen its commitment to reassure schools that participate and offer work-based learning that students will continue to receive workers’ compensation coverage for the long term. Not only does such protection benefit students, but it also benefits employers who provide these applied learning opportunities. This commitment supports stakeholders that wish to plan and expand their work-based learning offerings without the question or risk of coverage being discontinued. To this end, Education recommends:

- Adding provisions to *The Workers’ Compensation Act, 2013* that would see workers’ compensation coverage applied to students who participate in work-based learning assignments.
- Including stakeholders such as school divisions, Conseil scolaire fransaskois, historical high schools and registered independent schools in the consultation process as amendments are being contemplated. Further, Education would appreciate receiving updates, whenever possible, from the Committee of Review so it can share information with its stakeholders as needed.

Should the Committee of Review wish to discuss further details on the aforementioned ideas, please contact Diane Carlson, A/Director of Legislative Services and Privacy at 306-787-7691 or diane.carlson@gov.sk.ca.

Sincerely,



Donna Johnson
Deputy Minister

cc: Mark McLoughlin, Deputy Minister, Advanced Education
Clint Repski, Deputy Minister, Immigration and Career Training
Rory Jensen, Assistant Deputy Minister, Education
Susan Nedelcov-Anderson, Assistant Deputy Minister, Education
Maria Chow, Executive Director, Student Achievement and Supports, Education
Diane Carlson, A/Director of Legislative Services and Privacy, Education