



November 22, 2021

Dr. Louise Greenberg, PhD.  
Workers' Compensation Act Committee of Review  
300 – 1870 Albert Street  
REGINA SK S4P 4W1  
[wca-cor@gov.sk.ca](mailto:wca-cor@gov.sk.ca)

Dear Dr. Greenberg:

Thank you for your letter from October 7, 2021, regarding The Worker's Compensation Act Committee of Review (Committee of Review). I appreciate the opportunity to share our Ministry's views with the committee.

The Ministry of Immigration and Career Training (ICT) is committed to the goals of developing Saskatchewan's labour force to support economic growth in our province and help citizens realize their full potential. ICT delivers services and programs that address the needs of job seekers to prepare for, obtain and maintain employment, and supports employers with the development, recruitment, and retention of a skilled workforce. It is for these reasons that ICT is interested in the work being undertaken by the Committee of Review and the outcomes of the public consultations.

To achieve its goals, ICT provides funding to provincial post-secondary training institutions for Adult Basic Education and Skills Training programs, and to service providers for the delivery of programs for employment and career development needs. Some of these programs have unpaid work-based learning assignments outside of the post-secondary training institutions and service providers. Work-based learning assignments provide participants with an opportunity to be placed with local employers to develop their employability skills. It also offers connections to on-going and sustainable employment.

In December of 2019, ICT entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Worker's Compensation Board (WCB) to ensure appropriate insurance coverage for participants in unpaid work-based learning assignments through service providers. The MOU requires amendments to its Schedules on an annual basis. Work-based learning assignments provided by public training institutions are articulated in a letter of agreement between the Ministry of Advanced Education and the WCB.

Dr. Louise Greenberg, PhD.

Page 2

November 22, 2021

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To ensure the safety and protection of all stakeholders involved in unpaid work-based learning assignments, legislative and regulatory amendments to *The Worker's Compensation Act* and associated Regulations are needed to extend coverage to eligible participants pursuing unpaid work-based learning assignments while engaged in career development programs with service providers. As is the case in other jurisdictions, the authority for participant coverage when engaged in unpaid work-based learning assignments should be encompassed in legislation.

Inclusion of work-based learning assignments in legislation will signal a long-term commitment that will allow for expansion of programs to meet job seeker needs and align with objectives of the Growth Plan to “expand work-integrated learning opportunities for students to develop and practice skills in real-life settings and gain exposure to careers in Saskatchewan”.

Moving forward, ICT supports an amendment to the Act and Regulations to address the aforementioned concerns for Saskatchewan job seekers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Clint Repski".

Clint Repski

Deputy Minister of Immigration and Career Training