

December 15, 2021

“Submitted online”

Louise Greenberg, PhD
Chairperson, Workers’ Compensation Act Committee of Review

Dear Ms. Greenberg:

Re: Consultation on the *Workers’ Compensation Act* Review

This letter is in response to your invitation to share our views and suggestions on the *Workers’ Compensation Act* and supporting documents. This letter was referred to me for follow-up and to coordinate SaskPower’s response. A comprehensive review of the material was completed. SaskPower offers the following comments for the committee’s consideration:

1. Coverage – Independent Worker
 - a. Review the definition of “independent worker” and allow independent workers to access WCB coverage/self-insurance. We recommend a review and potential discontinuance of the practice of the WCB automatically assigning coverage to the hiring company.
2. Medical and Surgical Aid
 - a. Recommend the WCB complete a review of its parameters to assess the suitability of rehabilitation programs. Develop clear parameters for rehabilitation programs (e.g., cost and duration) relative to the injury and returning the worker to pre-injury status.
3. Premium Rate Model
 - a. Continue with the current premium rate model. In our opinion, the 2018 rate model change has proven effective in creating a fair and appropriate rate model.
4. Customer Service
 - a. Recommend the WCB implement a single point of contact for large employers. This model was implemented for SaskPower and has resulted in significant improvement in case management with this model.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our comments. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at cmlawrek@saskpower.com or (306) 551-9848.

Sincerely,



Crystal Lawrek
Director, Employee Relations & Health and Wellness Services

Cc: M.J. (Mike) Marsh, President & CEO, SaskPower
Rachelle Verret Morphy, Q.C. Vice-President Corporate & Regulatory Affairs/Acting Vice-President,
Human Resources and Safety, SaskPower
Kevin Schwing, Director Safety, SaskPower