

Employer relief measures extended until July 31, 2020



The Saskatchewan WCB has provided an extension to employer relief measures related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Relief measures have been extended until July 31, 2020 and will be monitored monthly. The extensions and additions to the pandemic relief measures are:

- **NEW:** Penalties applied in 2020 will be removed. This includes late filing, under estimate and late registration penalties. This will be automatically applied and employers do not need to call to initiate this process.
- Waiving of interest has been extended until July 31, 2020. If no additional extensions occur, interest will be applied on Aug. 8, 2020.
- Payroll audits have been suspended, except in situations where an employer may be eligible for a refund.
- Clearance letters will continue to be available to employers that meet certain criteria, even in cases where the contractor's WCB account has not been paid.
- The WCB will prioritize payroll revisions to assist employers in reducing their premiums based on the impact of work slowdowns.

Employers are encouraged to continue to make payments as they become due. However, we do recognize that some may not be able to make current or future payments in full at this time. To provide support to those customers, our collections team is available to design a payment option to meet those needs:

Email: collections@wcbsask.com

Phone: 306.787.0474

Toll free: 1.800.667.7590 option 2

The WCB would also like to extend thanks to all employers who have continued to work with the WCB through the COVID-19 pandemic.

Learn more: www.wcbsask.com/employers/wcbs-employer-relief-measures/

Employer Resource Centre survey extended

The Saskatchewan WCB has extended the deadline for a survey on the Employer Resource Centre to help us make sure the Employer Resource Centre continues to meet the needs of employers. All feedback is anonymous.

This survey will now be available until July 17, 2020.

[Take the survey here.](#)



Prevention tools for COVID-19 and the workplace



As workplaces gradually reopen in the province, WorkSafe Saskatchewan (the partnership between the WCB and the Ministry of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety) continues to have additional support available to employers to limit the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace. The following information is available:

- [What employers should do](#)
- [What workers should do](#)
- [Staying safe at work](#)
- [Managing your mental health through COVID-19: Tools to help you cope](#)
- [Ergonomic safety at home](#)
- [Tips for individuals and teams working remotely](#)
- [Returning to the workplace after the pandemic](#)

WCB shares financial results during AGM

Sask. workplace injury rate drops from second highest in Canada to fourth among provinces

Regina, Sask., June 24, 2020 – At the Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Board (WCB)'s annual general meeting (AGM) teleconference today, the WCB shared its 2019 financial and operating results with Saskatchewan workers, employers and partners.



“In 2019, the WCB remained fully funded to support our customers, the workers and employers of Saskatchewan. At 115 per cent funded at 2019 year-end, we were able to cover costs of all claims in the system. This upheld the WCB's commitment to workers and employers to operate an effective and efficient compensation system,” said the WCB's Chairperson Gord Dobrowolsky. “Because of COVID-19 and the impact of the pandemic response on global, Canadian and Saskatchewan economies, a decrease in employer payroll in 2020 – combined with a decline in investment markets – has put pressure on the WCB's strong financial position.”

The WCB's 2019 funded position was within the targeted range of 105 to 120 per cent. WCB CEO Phil Germain gave an overview of the WCB's 2019 operational highlights. In 2019, 21,473 workers were injured in Saskatchewan workplaces and sadly, 36 individuals lost their lives in work-related incidents. Of those, 17 were from occupational disease, seven were from traumatic events, five were from heart attacks, four were from motor vehicle incidents and three were from medical complications.

“Every single one of these work-related deaths is a tragedy. The impact of each loss is felt by family members and communities,” said Germain. “It is so important for all of us to continue working to keep our workplaces safe.”

The 2019 Total injury rate decreased to 4.95 per 100 workers in 2019, while the Time Loss injury rate decreased to 1.86 per 100 workers in 2019. In 2019, for the fourth year in a row, 88 per cent of Saskatchewan employers had zero injuries and zero fatalities in their workplaces.

“Thanks to the health and safety efforts of workers, employers, safety associations and labour unions, our workplace injury rate has dropped from the second highest in Canada to fourth among Canadian provinces,” said Germain. “While this suggests we still have plenty of work to do, it also demonstrates that we are heading in the right direction.”

At the meeting, Germain spoke about the WCB's upcoming challenges and opportunities for 2020 and beyond. The leading challenges include the new operating paradigm because of the COVID-19 pandemic, financial management and market volatility.

“The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has affected workers and businesses across the province and it is likely we will continue seeing the fallout for quite some time,” said Germain. “The pandemic response has also created opportunities for us to improve our customer service.”

The WCB has outlined key strategic objectives in its three-year strategic and operational plan. The WCB’s 2019 annual report and the strategic and operational plan are [available online](#).