

# Amendments Introduced to *The Workers' Compensation Act, 2013*

## Fact Sheet

### Background

In 2021-22 a review of *The Workers' Compensation Act, 2013* took place with feedback from stakeholders and the community. As a result, the Workers' Compensation Act Committee of Review made 34 recommendations for improvements to the workers' compensation system. Twelve of these recommendations were legislative in nature.

The Government of Saskatchewan has introduced amendments to the Act that include:

### Expansion of presumptive firefighter cancer coverage

The suggested amendments to *The Workers' Compensation Act, 2013* include the expansion of presumptive coverage to include six new types of cancer. This will bring the presumptive coverage to 22 types of cancer – the most of any Canadian jurisdiction.

This coverage includes:

- primary site penile cancer;
- primary site pancreatic cancer;
- primary site thyroid cancer;
- primary site soft tissue sarcoma;
- primary site mesothelioma; and
- primary site laryngeal cancer.

### Definition of worker:

- The definition of worker is changing to remove executive officers and include secondary and post-secondary students in recognized programs as well as the ability to add other categories of workers in the regulations (clause 2(1)(ii)).

### Privacy provisions:

- The amendment will: (1) mirror *The Health Information Protection Act*; (2) provide for administrative penalties if a privacy breach occurs; and (3) simplify the process for releasing information during reconsideration or review of a decision on compensation claims (sections 173, 174 and 183).

**Tribunal appeal decisions:**

- The amendment will require all appeal tribunal decisions with rationale to be published (section 23.1).

Having the information available will ensure better transparency of the process and decision-making.

**Compensation:**

- Amendments are introduced that will:
  - Cover the expenses associated with transporting a deceased worker's body to the usual residence outside Canada (section 80).
  - Provide compensation to a worker's dependent children when the worker passes away from a non-work-related injury while on compensation no matter the length of time on compensation (section 93).
  - Increase the permanent functional impairment award over a four-year period and index afterward (section 66).
  - Index the independence allowance (section 67).

**Other amendments:**

- Simplify the medical review panel process (sections 59, 60 and 61).
- Standardize the service of documents across the Act (section 178.1).