



The Workers Compensation Board of Manitoba

Board of Directors

Governance Manual

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Workers Compensation Board of Manitoba (WCB)

The Manitoba WCB is an injury and disability insurance agency that is governed by a Board of Directors representative of employers, workers and the public interest and funded by employer premiums. The WCB performs a dual mandate:

- ❖ The WCB provides compensation and other benefits to injured workers and dependants. The WCB also works with workers, employers and healthcare professionals to promote safety and health in workplaces and to return workers to health and work in a safe and timely manner.
- ❖ The WCB, acting through SAFE Work Manitoba, undertakes activities and initiatives that are intended to promote safety and health in workplaces and to prevent and reduce the occurrence of workplace injury and illness.

1.2 WCB's Vision

A trusted partner, insuring today and building a safer tomorrow.

1.3 WCB's Mission

We are here to insure and support safe and healthy work and workplaces.

We put workers and employers at the center of all we do.

We provide them with valued services for injury prevention, compensation, and return to health and work while maintaining system integrity.

1.4 WCB's Values

We deliver service that is fast, easy, caring, right and clear.

Integrity: We treat everyone fairly, honestly and respectfully. We fulfil our mission with openness and transparency.

Innovation: We aim to find new and better ways to provide service that is fast, easy, caring, right and clear. We continually seek to make our system more responsive, efficient and effective.

Compassion: We understand and care about the diverse needs of both our customers and our staff.

Accountability: We are stewards of an important system and we are accountable to the public and our partners.

Collaboration: We strive to work together with each other, and with our partners to serve our customers and achieve our vision.

1.5 Strategic Priorities

Our People: Engaging our employees to harness their commitment and passion. Developing our capabilities and our capacity to excel.

Our Customers: Understanding the diverse needs and expectations of workers and employers. Providing proactive and relevant services.

Our Partners: Collaborating with our partners to deliver superior services and build a safer Manitoba.

Our System: Protecting the integrity of the compensation system. Honouring our governing principles and delivering on our mandate.

1.6 The WCB Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is the centre of the WCB's governance structure and oversees the management of the WCB. The Board is responsible for setting the WCB's strategic direction, safeguarding resources (financial and human), monitoring performance and is accountable for the actions of the WCB.

As stewards of the compensation system, the Board of Directors plans for its future. The Board of Directors sets the WCB's strategic direction, makes policies about compensation, rehabilitation, assessment and investment of funds within the investment portfolio, prevention of workplace injury and illness, and monitors progress.

1.7 Board of Directors' Governance Principles

The WCB Board of Directors is committed to best practices in corporate governance. The Board's governance practices are built upon the four pillars recognized by leaders in governance as attributes of effective governance: stewardship, leadership, responsibility and accountability.¹

These attributes include:

Stewardship:

- ❖ Trustee of the organization's mandate and resources
- ❖ Clear understanding of the organization's goals and priorities
- ❖ Risk management plans
- ❖ Clear understanding of whom the Board represents
- ❖ Appropriate relationships with other organizations

Leadership:

- ❖ Leadership function for society
- ❖ Clear on Board responsibilities
- ❖ Build positive relationships
- ❖ Clear relationship with Chief Executive Officer

Responsibility:

- ❖ Members committed to the organization
- ❖ Effective and efficient management of the organization's resources to accomplish desired aims
- ❖ Reliability
- ❖ Independent of management

Accountability:

- ❖ Accountable for organization's effectiveness
- ❖ Understand roles: who is responsible for what
- ❖ Performance measures and expectations
- ❖ Appropriate information for decision-making

¹ Sources: Brown Governance Inc. and Office of the Auditor General of Manitoba.

2. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

2.1 Legislative Authority

The Workers Compensation Board is a statutory corporation under *The Workers Compensation Act* of Manitoba (the *WCA*). The *WCA* establishes the WCB and the Board of Directors and sets out the Board's responsibilities to approve and supervise the policies and direction of the WCB, including operations, planning for the future of the compensation system and planning for the prevention of workplace injury and illness.

2.2 General Structure and Board Members' Terms

The structure of the Board of Directors is determined by the *WCA*.

The Board of Directors is appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council and consists of:

- ❖ A member who is Chairperson;
- ❖ Three members representative of employers;
- ❖ Three members representative of workers;
- ❖ Three members representative of the public interest; and
- ❖ The CEO of the WCB who is a non-voting member.

Board members, other than the CEO, are appointed for terms of up to four years. Board members are eligible for reappointment.

Board appointments are staggered so that no more than one-third of the Board is eligible for reappointment in any given year. Staggered appointments balance the Board's need for continuity with the benefits of renewal.

A member of the Board of Directors whose term has expired continues to hold office until reappointed, a successor is appointed or the appointment is revoked.

2.3 Board Meetings

The *WCA* requires that the office of the Board of Directors be situated in the City of Winnipeg. Board meetings are held at the call of the Chairperson at any place in Manitoba that the Chairperson may decide.

The *WCA* requires the Board of Directors to meet and conduct its proceedings in such a manner as it considers most convenient for the proper discharge of its business.

A majority of the appointed members of the Board of Directors constitutes a quorum.

Notice of the time, location and any related information or materials for a meeting of the Board of Directors or a Committee is delivered to each Board member at least five days before the meeting.

2.4 Board Committees

The Board may establish committees that it considers necessary and must establish a policy and planning committee, an audit committee and an investment committee. The Board's current Committees are:

- ❖ Governance Committee: WCB policies, strategic planning, governance, policies and practices regarding WCB human resources and services to stakeholders;
- ❖ Audit Committee: financial reporting, internal audit, monitoring of corporate integrity, review of actuarial functions and internal controls;
- ❖ Investment Committee: investments;
- ❖ Finance Committee: financial management and assessment rates;
- ❖ Prevention Committee: WCB policies regarding prevention of workplace injury and illness and incentive programs, strategic planning, budgeting, review and evaluation of strategic plans for prevention initiatives.

2.5 Composition of Board Committees

The *WCA* sets out the composition of committees. Each committee must be composed of:

- ❖ Chairperson of the Board of Directors;
- ❖ CEO (non-voting); and
- ❖ An equal number of Directors representative of workers, employers and the public interest, one of whom must be appointed Committee Chairperson by the Board.

The Board of Directors may also appoint up to three additional non-Board members as members of the Audit Committee and the Investment Committee.

The Prevention Committee must also include the following additional persons as members:

- ❖ The Deputy Minister of the Department of the Minister responsible for the *WCA*, or the Deputy Minister's designate;
- ❖ The Chief Prevention Officer appointed under *The Workplace Safety and Health Act*;
- ❖ A member representative of employers who is appointed by the Minister responsible for the *WCA*; and
- ❖ A member representative of workers who is appointed by the Minister responsible for the *WCA*.

2.6 Roles and Responsibilities – Board of Directors

The responsibilities of the Board and each Committee are set out in Terms of Reference, which the Board reviews annually.

The Board of Directors oversees the operation of the workers compensation system in Manitoba and plans for its future. The Board's functions include:

- ❖ Appointing the CEO and Fair Practices Advocate and evaluating their performance annually;
- ❖ Monitoring the activities of the WCB to ensure that the WCB's operations achieve the Vision, Mission and Values;
- ❖ Approving Board governance policies in accordance with current leading governance practices, including codes of conduct and conflict of interest;

- ❖ Regularly monitoring and evaluating the performance of the Board of Directors and its Committees, including orientation and development of Board members;
- ❖ Approving and supervising the policies and direction of the WCB, including policies respecting compensation, rehabilitation, assessment, investment of the accident fund, operations and prevention of workplace injury and illness;
- ❖ Strategic planning, including approving annual and five year plans and ensuring that measures are in place to monitor progress towards the goals;
- ❖ Financial and actuarial matters, including approving budgets and financial statements;
- ❖ Ensuring that the WCB has in place adequate systems and processes to identify, monitor and mitigate significant financial, business and regulatory risks;
- ❖ Consulting with stakeholders and the public;
- ❖ Considering requests to review Appeal Commission decisions where the Appeal Commission has not properly applied the WCA, regulations or Board policy.

2.7 Roles and Responsibilities – Chairperson

The Chairperson is appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

The Chairperson is the official spokesperson for the Board of Directors, including communications with the Minister, the Legislature and legislative committees, stakeholders and other workers compensation agencies.

The Chairperson provides leadership to the Board of Directors, allocates responsibility within the Board of Directors and considers matters relating to Board members' conduct. The Chairperson calls and chairs Board of Director meetings and exercises the powers associated with chairing.

The Chairperson does not serve as Chairperson of any Committee except as acting Chairperson.

2.8 Roles and Responsibilities – Committee Chairs

The Board of Directors appoints Committee Chairs from the Board members representative of employers, workers and the public interest. The Committee Chair of the Audit Committee does not chair another Committee except as acting Chair.

The Committee Chairperson presides over Committee meetings and exercises the powers associated with chairing.

The Committee Chair establishes the Committee agenda, in conjunction with the Board of Directors' Chairperson and in consultation with the CEO.

The Committee Chair regularly reports to the Board of Directors on the activities, decisions and recommendations of the Committee.

2.9 Board and Committee Evaluations

The Board of Directors regularly reviews and assesses its performance and that of its Committees. The Board of Directors may independently undertake this evaluation process or retain the services of a consultant.

2.10 WCB Relationship to SAFE Work Manitoba and Government

The WCB is a statutory corporation created by the Manitoba Legislature.

The WCB is a government agency that operates at arm's-length from government. The WCB's funding is obtained by charging employers assessments rather than through receipt of provincial tax revenues.

The Board of Directors is the centre of the governance structure for the WCB. The Lieutenant Governor in Council appoints the Chairperson and Board members, other than the CEO.

The Minister is responsible for the legislation and the broad public policies governing the WCB. The Minister is accountable in general to the Legislature for the outcomes of the workers compensation system, but maintains an arm's-length relationship from the WCB.

Each year, the WCB provides its annual report and five year plan to the Minister who then tables them before the Legislature. The annual report and five year plan are then referred to the Standing Committee on Crown Corporations.

❖ **SAFE Work Manitoba**

The WCB has a statutory responsibility to promote safety and health in workplaces and to prevent and reduce the occurrence of workplace injury and illness. To fulfill this mandate, the WCB must, in cooperation with the Department of the Government of Manitoba responsible for *The Workplace Safety and Health Act* and in cooperation with the Workplace Safety and Health Branch:

- ❖ Promote public awareness of workplace safety and health and injury and illness prevention;
- ❖ Promote an understanding of and compliance with the *WCA* and *The Workplace Safety and Health Act*;
- ❖ Foster commitment to workplace safety and health and to injury and illness prevention among employers, workers and other persons;
- ❖ Work with organizations engaged in workplace injury and illness prevention to promote workplace safety and health;
- ❖ Provide training and education about preventing workplace injury and illness;
- ❖ Develop standards for workplace safety and health and training programs, including certification processes for providers; and
- ❖ Publish reports, studies or recommendations about workplace safety and health and injury and illness prevention.

The WCB must provide assistance to the Chief Prevention Officer in connection with his or her responsibilities under *The Workplace Safety and Health Act*.

The WCB's responsibilities in respect of promoting workplace safety and health and prevention/reduction of occurrence of workplace injuries and illness are carried into effect by SAFE Work Manitoba.

SAFE Work Manitoba is an independent arm of the WCB. SAFE Work Manitoba performs no role in respect of the WCB's responsibility for workers compensation.

SAFE Work Manitoba is led by a Chief Operating Officer for SAFE Work. The Chief Operating Officer of SAFE Work Manitoba reports to the President & CEO of the WCB.

The Board of Directors provides oversight and governance of SAFE Work Manitoba through the Prevention Committee. The WCB provides funding and administrative services to SAFE Work Manitoba. The WCB keeps separate accounts of its expenditures related to prevention activities.

❖ **WCB and Workplace Safety and Health**

Under the *WCA*, the WCB provides an annual grant to the provincial government to fund the operating costs and related overhead of Workplace Safety and Health Division (WSH) and the Worker Advisor Office. The WCB and WSH are partners in prevention.

❖ **Worker Advisor Office**

The Worker Advisor Office (WAO), which is part of the Department of Growth, Enterprise and Trade, provides free advocacy services to injured workers and their dependants. The WCB funds the costs of the WAO but the WAO is independent of the WCB. Employees of the WAO (worker advisors) are civil servants who are specially trained in workers compensation matters. The worker advisors assist workers with claim matters both at the WCB and at the Appeal Commission.

3. BOARD APPOINTMENTS AND DEVELOPMENT

3.1 Appointment Process

In addition to appointing the WCB Chairperson, the Lieutenant Governor in Council appoints individuals to the Board of Directors who are representative of workers, employers and public interest. The appointments are based on Ministerial consultations with the stakeholder groups.

The Board's tripartite structure recognizes that maintaining a constructive and productive working relationship between employer and labour stakeholders is an essential prerequisite for an effective workers compensation system.

3.2 Remuneration

Board members' remuneration is set out in Order in Council passed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. Board members are also entitled to reimbursement of expenses incurred in the performance of their duties as Board members. The Chairperson approves Board members' remuneration and expenses.

The Board of Directors sets the remuneration for members of the Audit Committee, Investment Committee and Prevention Committee who are not members of the Board of Directors.

The Audit Committee monitors the expenses of the Chairperson, Board of Directors and the CEO.

3.3 Matrix of Competencies

Effective corporate governance depends on having a Board of Directors with the appropriate personal attributes and mix of competencies that will support and advance the organization's mission.

In accordance with good governance practices, the Board of Directors has developed a list of competencies that a corporate board should collectively possess. The Board reviews this list annually. The Minister provides this competency list to stakeholders to assist them in their selection of nominees who will be considered for appointment by the Minister.

THE WORKERS COMPENSATION BOARD OF MANITOBA
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MATRIX OF COMPETENCIES

Excellent corporate governance depends on having a Board of Directors with the appropriate attributes and a mix of competencies that will support and advance the organization's mission. It is not necessary for all Board members to possess each and every one of the desired competencies, though the Board may prefer that each of its members attain a certain degree of proficiency in certain areas (like financial literacy, for example). It is recognized that, just as Board members will bring a variety of skills and experience to the table, they will also possess variety in the depth of their experience in various areas. **This diversity is both expected and valued.** It is incumbent on the Board to ensure its members are provided with ongoing training that will provide the skills necessary to perform their function.

In addition to the attributes, skills and experience listed below, the Board of Directors should reflect the diversity of Manitoba and the stakeholders of the WCB.

Collectively:

The Board of Directors of WCB Manitoba should be made up primarily of individuals who are leaders and influencers in the Manitoba community. This group of senior leaders would have knowledge and experience in workers compensation issues, be financially literate and have broad experience and knowledge in strategic planning at the board level.

Together these effective communicators and strong decision-makers would have a wealth of experience in corporate governance, labour relations, investments, prevention and risk management.

The work of these directors will be supported with their collective understanding of the Workers Compensation System, legal issues related to WCB Manitoba, communications, information technology and human resources experience.

These independent directors would exhibit exceptional ethical integrity as they act with a high degree of commitment to and in the best interests of WCB Manitoba.

Capable of a wide, balanced perspective, together they will speak with one voice, unified and solidly standing behind their joint decisions. They are collaborative in approach, sound in judgment, constructive in tone and respectful to each other, the management team, employees and other stakeholders of WCB Manitoba.

Each director will be committed to the work of the Board of WCB Manitoba evidenced by the priority they place on preparation for and attendance at board, committee, training and other scheduled meetings. They will have the support of their employers to ensure this time is available to them.

Directors nominated to the Board of WCB Manitoba as a result of their representational affiliation understand that their role is not to be an advocate from a caucus – they firstly bring the requisite skills, experience and commitment of time to the position. They serve in the best interests of the organization as a whole, thereby benefiting all.

Attributes	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Ability and willingness to ask challenging questions ❖ Capable of a wide, balanced perspective ❖ High degree of commitment to Workers Compensation ❖ Integrity and high ethical standards ❖ Sound judgment ❖ Strong interpersonal skills 	
Skills and Experience	Definition
Communications and Public Relations	Experience in public relations and communications particularly in public prevention and education programs in order to bring understanding of and improvement to communications strategy and oversight at the board level.
Financial expertise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Accounting credentials; ❖ An understanding of international financial reporting standards and financial statements and their application; and ❖ Experience preparing, auditing, analyzing, or evaluating financial statements.
Financial literacy	The ability to read and understand financial statements (training support specific to WCB Manitoba will be provided to new directors).
Governance expertise	An awareness of current governance issues and trends, and direct prior board experience.
Human resources	Experience as a human resource professional.
Information Technology	Experience, knowledge and strong understanding of the IT business including IT security and the oversight of large IT projects.
Investment management expertise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Extensive experience over varying markets conditions in the institutional investment field either as an asset manager or as a supervisor of asset managers; ❖ Experience with and understanding of different investment management processes and strategies for long term assets from an oversight perspective; ❖ A broad understanding of the various asset classes available to Investment Managers; ❖ Membership in investment organizations such as CFA Winnipeg; and ❖ Familiarity with the role of actuaries in asset/liability management strategies.
Labour relations	Experience with the organized labour movement.
Leadership experience	Significant experience leading others; could be in any type of organization, in a paid or volunteer capacity.

Legal experience	An understanding of the law as it applies to organizations like the WCB; not necessarily with a law degree.
Prevention experience	Experience and knowledge in prevention of workplace injuries and illness including safety & health legislation, safety & health programs, hazard identification & risk assessment, leadership & safety culture, training and public awareness.
Risk management experience	Experience identifying, planning for and putting in place strategies to mitigate organizational risks.
Strategic planning experience	Experience participating in or leading an organization in planning for its future.
Senior management experience	Experience as a paid senior manager (i.e., director, Vice-President or higher, Deputy Minister, Board member, etc.) in any organization. This could include private business, public sector, or organized labour.
Understanding of the workers compensation system	An awareness of the role the workers compensation system plays in Manitoba. Not necessarily direct experience with or within a workers compensation board. (Training support specific to WCB Manitoba will be provided to new directors.)

3.4 Code of Conduct

Directors have a fiduciary duty to the corporation, the WCB. Directors exercise the duties of loyalty and care. The duty of loyalty requires that Directors act honestly and in good faith with a view to the best interests of the WCB. Directors also have a duty of care to exercise the care, diligence and skill that a reasonably prudent person would exercise in comparable circumstances.

Board members:

- ❖ Endeavour to attend all Board meetings and Committee meetings to which they are appointed and if necessary, provide advance notification of absence.
- ❖ Are familiar with meeting materials distributed in advance of the meeting.
- ❖ Respect decisions of the Board of Directors and speak with a unified voice in communications once a decision has been made.
- ❖ Are familiar with the WCA, the regulations, policies, governance policies and organizational structure of the WCB as well as the rules of procedure and proper conduct of a meeting.
- ❖ Demonstrate high ethical standards in personal and professional dealings.
- ❖ Maintain confidentiality of Board information.

3.5 Respectful Workplace Protocol

Board by-laws require the Board to conduct Board and Committee meetings in accordance with respectful workplace principles adopted by the Board from time to time.

The Board of Directors has a Respectful Workplace Protocol that recognizes the right of every Board member, Committee member and WCB employee and contract personnel to work in an environment that is free from discrimination, harassment, acts of violence and disruptive workplace conflict.

3.6 Conflict of Interest

The Board of Directors has a by-law to govern conflicts of interest, whether real or perceived. In discharging their duties, Board members need to arrange their affairs in a manner that does not present a conflict of interest with their role as a Board member.

Board members are responsible for identifying and disclosing any real, potential or perceived conflicts of interest and do not participate in any decision or action where there is a real or apparent conflict.

Board members disclose to the Board of Directors any situation or matter where they have or may have a conflict of interest. Where a Board member is unsure whether a conflict of interest may exist, the member seeks clarification from the Chairperson of the Board.

Annually, each Board and external Committee member signs a conflict of interest declaration form.

3.7 Corporate Integrity

Under the *WCA*, the Audit Committee has oversight over corporate integrity. The Audit Committee reports to the Board about corporate integrity annually.

3.8 Board Member Development

Board members participate in conferences, seminars and workshops dealing with issues relevant to governance, the workers compensation program and prevention to increase their effectiveness and allow greater individual input into the Board's decision making processes.

The Governance Committee sets the governance agenda, including education sessions on investments, financial reports, risk identification, prevention and Board governance. Other activities that Board members may participate in include:

- ❖ Orientation for new Board members.
- ❖ Committee orientations.
- ❖ Board of Directors' annual Strategic Planning Session.
- ❖ Continuing education programs, such as conferences and seminars related to the WCB or governance topics.

3.9 Director Protection from Liability

Board members are protected from liability under Section 61 of the WCA:

Protection from liability

No action or proceeding may be brought against the board, a member of the Board of Directors, an employee or agent of the board, an appeal commissioner, a member of a medical review panel, the Fair Practices Advocate or a worker adviser acting under the authority of this Act for anything done or not done, or for any neglect,

- a) in the performance or intended performance of a duty under this Act or its regulations; or
- b) in the exercise or intended exercise of a power under this Act or its regulations;

unless the person was acting in bad faith.

4. RELATIONSHIP TO WCB ADMINISTRATION

4.1 Role of the President & Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

The Board of Directors appoints the President & CEO. The CEO is a non-voting member of the Board of Directors and is the Board's link to the administration of the WCB.

The CEO is responsible for the management and operations of the WCB.

The CEO ensures that the Board policies and plans approved by the Board of Directors are implemented. The CEO provides advice and feedback to the Board of Directors and employs and maintains the staff complement, including the delegation of authority to personnel.

The CEO represents the Board of Directors to stakeholders and outside groups, as may be required.

4.2 Evaluating the Performance of the President & CEO

The Board monitors and annually evaluates the CEO's performance. The Chairperson completes the evaluation with assistance from a special Board Committee. Once the evaluation is completed, the special Committee's recommendation is presented to the Board of Directors for approval.

4.3 Protocol for Director Communications with Staff

To the greatest extent possible, to avoid any perception of undue influence by a Board member on a matter in which the member has a personal or employment-related interest, communications between the member and the WCB that are not directly related to the member's responsibilities on the Board of Directors are addressed to the CEO or a senior WCB official designated by the CEO.