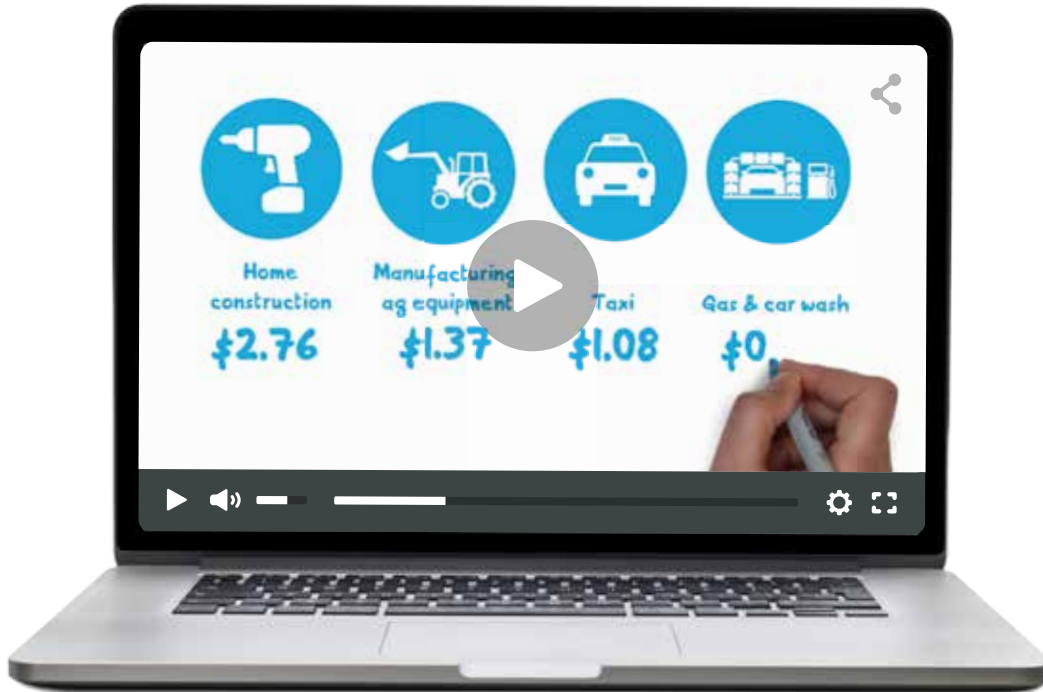


# WCB UPDATE

December 2016



## New Video, Web Content Help Explain our Rate System

In 2016, we began phasing in changes to the way we calculate your premiums. Some of these important changes were outlined in the brochure that you would have received with your rate letter in November.

To help you better understand these changes and how they might impact your business, we've created new information on our website that more simply explains our rate model and rate system. We've also developed a short video - titled WCB Premiums Explained - that provides an overview of how we set premiums and what you can do to lower your costs.

You can view the information and video by visiting [wcb.mb.ca](http://wcb.mb.ca) > **Employers > Your WCB Premium.**

Further transitional changes will continue to be phased in until the new assessment rate model is fully implemented by 2020. We'll continue to provide you with ongoing updates on these changes as they evolve.

We're committed to providing you with quality customer service - which is why we welcome your feedback. If you have any comments or questions, please visit [wcb.mb.ca](http://wcb.mb.ca), click on Your WCB Premium, and rate your experience on the information that we

provided you from any of the pages.

For more information, you can contact Assessment Services at **204-954-4505** or toll free at **1-855-954-4321**, extension 4505.

### In this Issue

Average WCB Assessment Rates Set to Drop in 2017, Remain Among the Lowest in Canada .....	2
Policy & Procedures Manual Update ....	2
WCB Named Top 25 Employer in Manitoba.....	3
WCB Manitoba Increases Presence on Social Media .....	4



# Average WCB Assessment Rates Set to Drop in 2017, Remain Among the Lowest in Canada

The average WCB assessment rate in Manitoba will drop to \$1.10 from \$1.25 per \$100 of assessable payroll in 2017. This is a 12 per cent reduction from last year, allowing the WCB to offer Manitoba employers the second lowest rate in the country.

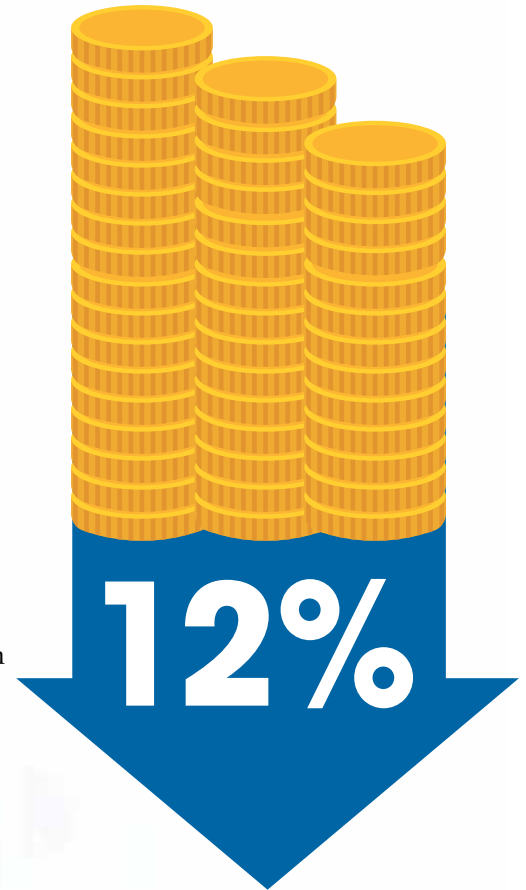
The WCB's strong financial stewardship, as well as the commitment of employers and workers to prevention and recovery goals, made the rate decrease possible.

"Our rates remain among the lowest in Canada thanks to a number of factors like safer workplaces and healthy investment returns," says Winston Maharaj, WCB President and CEO. "The success of prevention and return to work efforts by the WCB, workers and employers allow us to continue to offer a competitive advantage for Manitoba employers."

Overall, approximately three quarters of employers will see their rates decrease or remain the same, with 43 per cent of employers paying a lower WCB assessment rate in 2017. Of those, 2,300 employers will receive a further reduction in their rate due to improved industry experience. Those employers with consistently low injury experience will pay the lowest rates within their industry.

"The best way for employers to keep their rates low is to improve health and safety in their workplace and strengthen their return to work programs," says Maharaj.

The gradual increase in the maximum assessable earnings cap also continues, with the 2017 ceiling set at \$127,000.



## Policy & Procedures Manual Update

The following policies have been updated:

- **Policy 35.10.50 Status of Workers, Independent Contractors and Employers:** Instruction to call the WCB Telephone number to receive a copy of the policy guidelines was deleted as the policy guidelines are available on the WCB website.
- **Policy 44.100.10 Lump Sum Commutations:** Policy revisions increased the maximum fee for independent financial advice, synchronized adjustments to this fee with the financial advice fee set out in policy 44.100.20, Annuities and clarified that the worker's total

combined permanent disability rating determines whether the worker has the option of a lump-sum commutation or must request a lump-sum commutation. The amendments come into effect for pension commutation requests received on or after January 1, 2017.

- **Policy 44.100.20 Annuities:** Policy revision synchronized adjustments to the maximum fee payable for independent financial advice set out in this policy and policy 44.100.10, Lump-Sum Commutations.
- **Policy 52.30 SAFE Work Certified Program:** Policy updated to reference the related Administrative Guidelines (Appendix A and Appendix B) that

are published by the SAFE Work Certified Program.

- **Policy 35.05.10 Reporting and Verifying Payroll Administrative Guidelines:** References to Regulation updated to refer to Regulation 196/2005.
- **Policy 35.20.10 Classification of an Employer into Sub Groups Administrative Guidelines:** References to Regulation updated to refer to Regulation 196/2005.
- **Policy 43.20.40 Relocation:** Reimbursement of Relocation Costs (Attachment B) was adjusted effective October 1, 2016.

If you have any questions regarding your Policy and Procedures Manual, please call 204-954-4395.





## WCB Named Top 25 Employer in Manitoba

The WCB has been named one of Manitoba's Top Employers for 2017 for the sixth straight year!

The WCB was chosen for this prestigious title based on an extensive entry judged by HR and business experts and academics across Canada.

The four pillars of the WCB's recruitment and retention strategy - security, wellness, growth and engagement - are what form the basis for our successful and thriving work environment.

To view this year's WCB submission, visit <http://publications.winnipegfreepress.com/> under Manitoba's *Top 25 Employers*.

# The Workers Compensation Act Review

The Workers Compensation Act Legislative Review Committee 2016 is asking Manitobans to help steer the direction of the workers compensation system into the future.

**From November 15, 2016 to February 15, 2017, we will accept your submissions at:**

**Online:** [wcbactreview.com](http://wcbactreview.com)

**Fax:** 204-954-4968

### Questions?

**Email:** [info@wcbactreview.com](mailto:info@wcbactreview.com)

**Phone:** 204-954-6203

**Manitoba Toll free:** 1-877-358-0495

### Committee Members:

**Michael Werier**, chairperson

**Chris Lorenc**, representing employers

**Anna Rothney**, representing workers

**Ken Sutherland**, representing the public interest

**The Workers Compensation Act  
Legislative Review Committee 2016**

PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE





Follow us on Twitter  @WCBManitoba

## WCB Manitoba Increases Presence on Social Media



As social media becomes increasingly popular and important in day-to-day business activities, we are pleased to announce that we are now on Facebook and LinkedIn!

People use Facebook to stay connected with friends and family, to discover what's going on in the world, and to share and express what matters to them. The WCB's Facebook page will have a wide variety of information including public awareness campaigns, sponsorship and job fair

details, job openings, and more!

If you have a profile on Facebook, come "like" the WCB company page today by searching for "Workers Compensation Board of Manitoba".

LinkedIn connects the world's professionals and has more than 450 million members worldwide, and is the world's largest professional network on the Internet. Our presence on LinkedIn is in the form of a "Company Page", with the goal to

raise brand awareness, promote career opportunities, and educate potential customers and stakeholders about our organization and services.

If you have a personal profile on LinkedIn, follow the WCB company page today at this link: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/wcb-manitoba>

You can also follow us on Twitter at [@WCBManitoba](https://twitter.com/WCBManitoba) for news and updates.

Subscribe to

# WCBConnect



[wcb.mb.ca/wcb-newsletters](http://wcb.mb.ca/wcb-newsletters)

## WCBUPDATE

Return undeliverable copies to:  
WCB Communications, 333 Broadway, Winnipeg, MB R3C 4W3  
Telephone: (204) 954-4760 Fax: (204) 954-4968

PM 40062754