

No Increase in Average WCB Assessment Rates for 2012

The average WCB assessment rate in Manitoba will remain stable at \$1.50 next year, despite an unpredictable investment environment.

Manitoba employers will not see an increase in the average assessment rate in 2012. Instead, they will pay an average of \$1.50 per \$100 of their assessable payroll to the WCB for injury insurance coverage, including wage loss payments, medical benefits and rehabilitation services. The employer's own rate may be higher or lower than average, depending on their injury experience and the safety and health risk of their industry.

Last year, the WCB average assessment rate fell to \$1.50 from \$1.60 the year before. The rates had previously held steady at \$1.60 since 2008.

"Rate stability is possible because of significant reductions in the injury rate over the last decade and a focus on safe and timely return to meaningful employment for injured workers," says Doug Sexsmith, WCB President and CEO. "This allows us to continue to offer a competitive advantage for Manitoba employers by keeping assessment rates low. The fact that most employers will either see a decrease in their rates or no



increase tells us that our message of workplace safety is being heard, although there is still work to be done in that area."

Overall, about 39 per cent of employers will pay lower WCB assessment rates in 2012, while 12 per cent will pay more and 49 per cent will not see a change in their rates. Those employers who had the largest declines in their injury experience benefited the most. In 2011, Manitoba had the second lowest workers compensation assessment rates in the country, a status that will likely stay the same in 2012.

"The best way for employers to reduce their premiums remains to prevent injuries and to return injured workers to meaningful work as soon as it's safe to do so," says Sexsmith.

Your Link to Safety and Health Information

Get the latest workplace safety and health information delivered right to your inbox! Subscribe to the SAFE Manitoba and WCB e-newsletters for tips and news delivered right to you.

Sign up at www.safemanitoba.com and www.wcb.mb.ca.

If you're
hurt at work,
we're
here to help.

Now Available: Online Registration for New Employers

New employers in Manitoba can now begin the process of registering for the WCB online from anywhere at any time.

The new online application is convenient and easy to use – plus, employers only need to provide their information one time.

Visit www.wcb.mb.ca 24 hours a day, seven days a week for all of the WCB's online services:

- Employer Registration Request
- Clearances
- Claims Online
- Incident Reporting
- SAFE Work Reports
- Knowledge Base

Brandon Regional Office Opening Soon

In early 2012, the Workers Compensation Board of Manitoba will be opening a Regional Office in Brandon to better serve the Westman region.

We'll be there for injured workers and employers, helping people return to work quickly and safely. The WCB currently has two offices, a head office in Winnipeg and a small satellite office in Thompson that provides initial adjudication of claims and case management services.

SAFE Work Needs Your Voice

SAFE Work has launched its newest prevention campaign – and it wants Manitoba's help to make an impact on workplace injuries.

SAFE Work Needs Your Voice – seen now on billboards, television and online – promotes awareness of SAFE Work to the general public and encourages workers to participate in workplace safety.

The spot shows workers within their bubbles, portrayed by being encased

in glass cubes. After noticing a newer worker who isn't being safe, one worker "breaks out" of his routine to prevent an impending injury to a co-worker.

SAFE Work Needs Your Voice is a call to action for Manitobans to break through the barriers and actively participate in their workplace safety culture.

To view the SAFE Work Needs Your Voice commercial, visit www.safemanitoba.com/your_voice.



Dates to Remember



January 20, 2012 – The Quarterly Remittance and payment for the fourth quarter of 2011 must be received at the WCB for firms reporting on a quarterly basis. The remittance form is attached to your November statement.

February 28, 2012 – 2011/2012 Annual Payroll Form and 2011 Quarterly Reconciliation Forms are due.

February 27-29, 2012 – Phone service extended from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. If you have any questions, please call 954-4505 or toll free at 1-800-362-3340.

Insider is also available in a large print version.

Return undeliverable copies to:

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