

## November 2017, Vol. 13 Issue 11

### PROPOSED CHANGE TO DEFINITION OF “IMPAIRMENT”

The Workers Compensation Board has initiated a consultation process on a proposed change to the definition of “impairment” under the *Workers Compensation Act*.

The current definition limits impairments to physical conditions. The proposed change is intended to encompass psychological conditions and ongoing symptoms, such as chronic pain, in addition to the physical conditions already covered.

The proposed change may have implications for workers’ entitlement to extended wage loss benefits, ongoing supportive physiotherapy and chiropractic services, as well as vocational rehabilitation (retraining).

Employers are encouraged to review the Consultation Summary provided by the Board and to provide feedback on the proposed change. The Consultation Summary, which includes a proposed new definition, can be found at:

[www.wcb.pe.ca/Information/LegislativeReview](http://www.wcb.pe.ca/Information/LegislativeReview)

The feedback deadline is **December 20, 2017**. Feedback can be submitted through the Board’s online form, or by mailing the Board at:

**Workers Compensation Board -  
Legislative Feedback**  
14 Weymouth St, PO Box 757  
Charlottetown, PE C1A 7L7

### WCB DRAFT POLICIES

The following draft policies have been posted for review and commentary on the Workers Compensation Board Policy Consultation page:

**POL-03, “Travel and Related Expenses”**

**POL-85, “Review of Benefits”**

**POL-125, “Optional Coverage”**

Feedback on POL-03 is due by December 1, 2017, and feedback for POL-85 and POL-125 is due by December 27, 2017. Details on the proposed changes, as well as online feedback forms, are available on the Policy Consultation section of the Board’s website at:

[www.wcb.pe.ca/Information/PolicyConsultation](http://www.wcb.pe.ca/Information/PolicyConsultation)

If you have any questions or comments on the proposed policy changes, you can contact the Board’s Senior Policy and Planning Coordinator, Barbara Groome-Wynne, at 902-368-5562.

### WCB AVERAGE ASSESSMENT RATE DROPPING FOR 2018

The Workers Compensation Board’s Average Assessment Rate has been announced for 2018. The Average Assessment rate has dropped 10 cents, from \$1.70 in 2017 to \$1.60 in 2018. Almost all Rate Groups will see a reduction in their average assessment rates. Employers will be advised of their individual assessment rates in December.