



Workforce and Advanced Learning

Office of the Employer Advisor

ANNUAL REPORT

**for the period of
April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018**

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This Annual Report highlights the accomplishments of the Office of the Employer Advisor for the period of April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018.

About the Office of the Employer Advisor

The legislative authority for the Office of the Employer Advisor is contained in Section 85(1)(b) of the *Workers Compensation Act* and it became operational on February 16, 2004. The mandate of the Office is to assist PEI employers and employer associations with the statutory interpretation and application of both the *Workers Compensation Act* and the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*, as well as policies, procedures and practices of the Workers Compensation Board of PEI.

The Employer Advisor provides independent advice and assistance in the areas of claims management, classifications and assessments, workplace health and safety and appeals. Services available from the Office of the Employer Advisor include education and training, assistance and representation during the appeal process, research and analysis, along with information sharing. Operational funding is provided to the Department of Workforce and Advanced Learning by the Workers Compensation Board of PEI through employer assessments levied by the board. There are no fees charged for our services and the Office operates independently of the Workers Compensation Board.

WCB Related Activity

The Office of the Employer Advisor represented a number of Island employers in the preparation and presentation of their appeals, or responses to Worker appeals, to both the Internal Reconsideration Officer and the Workers Compensation Appeal Tribunal. During the fiscal year fifty-seven new files were opened and dealt with matters such as: claim procedure and acceptance, claim costs, new evidence, return-to-work and accommodation, re-employment obligations, appeal procedures, cost relief, pre-existing conditions, rate questions and experience rating. In addition numerous inquiries were handled from individual employers and employer associations on various aspects of both the *Workers Compensation Act* and the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* as well as board policies, procedures and practices.

The Employer Advisor submitted feedback on several WCB Draft Policies that were presented for public consultation, as well as some proposed legislative changes. The Employer Advisor participated in regular Liaison Committee meetings with the Workers Compensation Board, the Worker Advisor and the WCAT Coordinator.

Professional Development

The Office of the Employer Advisor participated in teleconference calls with the other five members of the Canadian Association of Employer Advisors/Advocates throughout the year.

These conference calls provide an excellent opportunity for information sharing for Employer Advisors/Advocates regarding their programs and developments in workers compensation in their respective jurisdictions. The Employer Advisor attended training sessions on conflict resolution.

Communications and Client Relations

The Office set up a booth at the WCB Workplace Health & Safety Conference, held May 4th, 2017, the Charlottetown Chamber Biz to Biz Expo, held October 19th, 2017, the Construction Association Expo, held March 2nd, 2018, and the TIAPEI Job Fair, held March 3rd, 2018. The Office also sent out letters to select employers in higher paying rate groups to introduce the Office's services.

The Office of the Employer Advisor provided two training sessions to employer groups/associations during this fiscal year, as well as one orientation session on the services offered by the Office.

During the fiscal year twelve issues of *The Employer Advisor* electronic newsletter were produced and circulated via e-mail to employers and their management staff, employer associations, public sector managers, and other interested parties. The Office continues to offer copies of our newsletter on its section of the website.

Respectfully submitted,



Erinn G. Moore
Employer Advisor