

WCB

Personal Coverage

(2006)



Protection for business owners

WCB Personal Coverage offers protection that can help manage the unexpected. This optional coverage is offered to proprietors, partners and directors to protect them, their dependants and their business from the potential hardships of a work-related injury or illness.

Who is Personal Coverage for?

Individuals who do not automatically receive all the benefits of workers' compensation insurance can purchase optional Personal Coverage. These individuals include:

- Employers and business owners,
- Proprietors or partners in a business,
- Directors of a corporation, society, board, authority, commission, or foundation, and
- Owners of companies contracting their services.

What are the benefits of Personal Coverage?

Key benefits to those insured are:

- **Protection against loss of employment income.**
If your injury or illness is work related and you are unable to work, you can receive compensation for lost earnings.
- **Comprehensive medical and rehabilitation services** with no preset limits to help you return to work.
- **Risk Management.** Workers' Compensation Personal Coverage is the **only** insurance that offers protection from lawsuit for you and other parties covered by our insurance plan. Personal Coverage may be a contract requirement.

Other features of Personal Coverage:

- **Immediate coverage.** Personal Coverage becomes effective the date you are registered.
- **No fault insurance.** Insured individuals are eligible for benefits, regardless of whether negligence contributed to an accident. If a worker is injured while working for you or with you, Personal Coverage protects you from being sued. This protection extends to all workers and employers covered by workers' compensation. Additional private insurance coverage may be required to ensure you are sufficiently covered for all potential risks.

- **Continuous coverage.** Personal Coverage is automatically renewed annually, unless seasonal coverage is requested.
- **Accessibility.** Previous health and safety records do not affect your eligibility for coverage.
- **“Guaranteed benefits”** from WCB as first payer. We pay compensation for work-related disability regardless of eligibility for benefits from other sources.

What type of compensation benefits are available?

- Disability benefits based on 90% of your net income, or the amount of coverage purchased (see following question),
- Lump sum payment for permanent disability or impairment,
- Hospital and medical treatment costs,
- Approved health care expenses including chiropractic treatments, physiotherapy or counseling,
- Vocational rehabilitation services, and
- If an accident is fatal, benefits for eligible dependants plus expenses for transportation of body, burial or cremation and memorial services.

How much coverage should I purchase?

It is important to base the coverage you buy on your actual employment earnings (earnings before tax, CPP and EI deductions). This amount will be used to determine the compensation you receive in case of a workplace injury. Purchasing the minimum amount of coverage may reduce your costs, but the benefits you receive, if injured, may not be enough to replace lost income.

If injured, you will need to verify your self-employment earnings through records such as T4 slips, tax returns, income and expense statements or payroll stubs. If your records do not match the amount of coverage purchased, compensation benefits will be based on the lesser of the amount of coverage purchased, guaranteed coverage amount (if applicable) or verified earnings (to the current minimum).

Guaranteed Coverage amounts are offered in some industries without earnings validation. Our Contact Centre staff would be happy to discuss the details.

How much money will I receive if I have a work-related injury or illness?

Compensation benefits depend on the level of coverage purchased. You may choose an amount between the minimum and maximum. The following chart shows the approximate monthly benefits for selected levels of coverage:

Personal Coverage levels	Approximate monthly compensation rate
\$19,100	\$1,216.20
\$20,000	\$1,263.33
\$25,000	\$1,525.18
\$30,000	\$1,787.02
\$35,000	\$2,048.87
\$40,000	\$2,288.70
\$45,000	\$2,540.64
\$50,000	\$2,795.64
\$55,000	\$3,050.64
\$60,000	\$3,305.64
\$63,300	\$3,473.94

For 2006, \$19,100 is the minimum amount of coverage (those earning less than this should choose this amount). \$63,300 is the maximum amount of wage loss coverage available (if your income exceeds this amount you should seek additional private insurance coverage).

How much will Personal Coverage cost?

Cost will vary based on the amount of coverage you purchase and the industry in which you operate. The minimum annual premium on a WCB account is \$100 (workers' and personal coverage).

What if I work in more than one industry?

Personal Coverage gives you the option under one policy of splitting coverage between industries, companies, and locations. Here's how it works: If you are active as a Director in more than one industry, company or location, Personal Coverage is split based on the percentage of time spent in each, up to a total of 100%. If you are conducting business in Saskatchewan, you also have an opportunity to split coverage between Alberta and Saskatchewan. Benefits continue to be based on the Personal Coverage level selected regardless of how the coverage is split.

Personal Coverage, like all workers' compensation insurance, is based on the type of work you do. A welder and an auto mechanic, for instance, face different odds of injury on the job. If your business operations change or expand please contact us so we can ensure your Personal Coverage is complete and covers you for all of your work-related activities. Coverage is only valid in the industries approved.

Can I change my coverage?

You may increase or decrease your Personal Coverage by phone, fax, letter or e-mail. If you are off work due to a work related injury or illness, you should contact the WCB to discuss your Personal Coverage. You may want to continue coverage if you are working in a reduced capacity or require protection from legal action.

How do I apply for Personal Coverage?

Call us from 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday. We can answer your questions and make sure you are properly covered. You can also mail or fax a registration form.

For more information

Edmonton Phone: (780) 498-3999
Fax: (780) 498-7999

Calgary Phone: (403) 517-6000
Fax: (403) 517-6201

Deaf, Hearing & Speech Impaired TDD: (780) 498-7895

Toll Free in Alberta: 1-866-WCB-WCB1 (922-9221)

Mailing Address: Workers' Compensation Board - Alberta
PO Box 2415,
Edmonton, AB T5J 2S5

Office Locations: Edmonton: 9912 - 107 Street
Calgary: 300 - 6th Avenue SE

E-mail: contactcentre@wcb.ab.ca
Website: www.wcb.ab.ca

Customer Contact Centre hours of operation:
Monday to Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

