

**THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD**  
**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**MINUTES**

**DATE:** March 28, 2006

**PLACE:** The Workers' Compensation Board  
12th Floor Board Room  
Jarvis Building  
9925 - 107 Street  
Edmonton, Alberta

**TIME:** 8:30 a.m.

**BOARD MEMBERS**

David Carpenter, Chair  
Guy Kerr, President & Chief Executive Officer \*  
James Kallal, Member  
Fauzia Lalani, Member  
John Malthouse, Member  
Mark McCullough, Member  
Donald Oborowsky, Member  
Tom Shields, Member  
Norbert Van Wyk, Member

**SECRETARIAT**

Douglas R. Mah, Secretary and General Counsel \*

**ALSO PRESENT**

Dieter Brunsch, Vice President, Customer Service & Risk Management \*  
Ron Helmhold, Chief Financial Officer \*  
Wendy King, Vice President, Customer Service & Disability Management \*  
Roxy Shulha-McKay, Vice President, Employee & Corporate Services \*  
Dave Lawson, Chief Investment Officer (item 7)

\* excused for item 11

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

1. **Agenda**

The agenda as distributed was approved.

2. (a) **Minutes of the Meeting of February 28, 2006**

**MOTION**  
2006/03/09

It was moved that,

"The minutes of the meeting of February 28, 2006 be hereby adopted."

CARRIED

(b) **Website Summary of the February 28, 2006 Meeting**

The website summary of the February 28, 2006 meeting was accepted as distributed.

(c) **Action Required List**

The action required list was received for information.

(d) **Activities and Opportunities in 2006**

The activities and opportunities list was received for information.

3. **Business Arising from the Minutes of February 28, 2006**

There was no business arising from the minutes of the February 28, 2006 meeting.

4. **Report of the Chair**

The Chair reported on the following:

- completion of individual board member assessments
- educational planning for board members
- new chairs of the Policy, Finance and Audit Committees
- recruitment of new board members
- upcoming Western Heads of Delegations meeting

5. **Report of the President**

The President reported on the following:

**Current Issues**

- dividend distribution
- fraud cases
- economy and impact on staffing
- Manitoba Auditor General's report on the WCB

**Government Relations**

- update on the Minister's Monitoring Committee
- Bills 15 and 50 update and status of research on part-time firefighters
- longstanding contentious claims

**External Communications**

- media comment on public sector salaries
- Public Accounts Committee

**Stakeholder Relations**

- Industry Task Force comments on overturns by the Appeals Commission
- upcoming Labour Coalition meeting

**Other Issues of Interest**

- average claim duration
- return to work and disability injury rates
- earnings loss payment statistics and comments by the Auditor General
- report of the American College of Chest Physicians with regard to asbestos-related lung disease
- judicial appeal statistics
- economic development opportunity

The Chief Financial Officer reviewed the financial status report for the period ending February 28, 2006.

**6. Committee Chair Reports****(a) Policy Committee**

The committee chair provided a report.

**(i) Policy 04-06, Part II, Application 4, Prescribed Opioid Analgesics (Narcotics) (New) and Policy 04-06, Part II, Application 1**

**MOTION**  
2006/03/10

It was moved that,

"The Board of Directors approve the new policy application, Policy 04-06, Part II, Application 4, *Prescribed Opioid Analgesics (Narcotics)* and a

minor consequential amendment to Policy 04-06, Part II, Application 1, *General*.

The proposed new policy sets out:

- the principles guiding the WCB in authorizing payment for prescribed opioid analgesics (narcotics) for use in treating chronic, non-malignant pain;
- the circumstances when the WCB would normally authorize payment for prescribed opioid analgesics; and
- the circumstances when the WCB might suspend or discontinue authorization for payment of prescribed opioid analgesics.

The amendment to Application 1 adds a reference, in Question 5, to the new Application 4.

**Effective Date:** May 1, 2006."

CARRIED

(ii) **Employer Appeals Advisors**

**MOTION**  
2006/03/11

It was moved that,

"The Board of Directors direct management to convene a meeting with the Industry Task Force in early 2006 with the objective of reaching agreement on a pilot service to support employers where they dispute a decision by focusing on a resolution strategy rather than appeal."

CARRIED

(iii) **Inconsequential Amendments**

The topic summary was received for information.

(iv) **Procedure Contained in Policy Documents**

The topic summary was received for information.

(v) **2005 Online Policy Consultation Report**

The topic summary was received for information.

(b) **Audit Committee**

The committee chair had nothing to report.

(c) **Finance Committee**

The committee chair provided a report on information items received at the last committee meeting.

(d) **Governance Committee**

The committee chair had nothing to report.

(e) **Human Resources and Compensation Committee**

The committee chair provided a report on the committee's last meeting.

7. **2006 Investment Market Outlook**

The Chief Investment Officer made a presentation.

8. **Economic Cycles and Workers' Compensation Costs**

The Vice President, Customer Service and Risk Management, made a presentation.

9. **New Business**

There was no new business.

10. **Meeting Evaluation**

An evaluation form was distributed.

The Chair excused senior management from the meeting for item 11.

11. **In Camera**

The Board of Directors held an *in camera* session.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 11:00 a.m.

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CHAIR

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SECRETARY