

2018 was certainly a significant year for our system.

As we near the end of the year, I find myself reflecting on what we achieved in 2018, and what it takes to make this system work.

Looking back at how our system has evolved this year, one thing is clear: it takes each and every one of our system partners to make this work. You have been on this journey with us, and this system would not function without your commitment and care.

Every day we see proof of your dedication to the system through employer success stories, like STEP Energy, whose health and safety program made a difference when Kory was injured on the job (read their story on page 10). We see your investment through participation in health and safety programs (like Partnerships in Injury Reduction), and through engagement in the policy consultations we held earlier this year (on page 7 learn about how you can sign up to be notified of opportunities to provide input on our policies).

Your commitment and investment in the workers' compensation system have helped ensure its stability and build the strong foundation we have today. I'm looking forward to next year and all that we'll accomplish. With this strong foundation, we're in great position to continue evolving, and always supporting a safe, healthy and strong Alberta, together. 

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Do you have an idea for a story? *We would love to hear from you.*

Please contact Jamie Hall at jamie.hall@wcb.ab.ca or 780-498-3968.

Are you an employer with workers?

If so, you're required to fill out an annual return reporting your workers' insurable earnings paid in the last year, along with the earnings you expect to pay in the upcoming year. This is important information to ensure you're paying the correct premium amount.

The deadline to file your annual return is February 28, 2019. Filing your return online is quick and easy. Built-in calculations, error checking and simple navigation make the process easier than ever. All you need is your account number and password, which will be mailed out starting at the end of December.

Need help filling out your return? Check out the online demo located at wcb.ab.ca > Insurance and premiums > Annual returns. 

Guaranteed Coverage Amount changes coming in 2019

The Guaranteed Coverage Amount (GCA) is the amount of insurance that personal coverage holders can purchase without having to substantiate earnings prior to benefits being paid. We recently reviewed the GCA benefit levels to ensure they reflect the current economy and wages paid within the province.

In 2019, we are adding another 28 industries that will have a GCA. We will also add one more benefit level. Currently we have three benefit levels: \$30,000, \$35,000 and \$40,000. In 2019, we are increasing the levels to \$35,000, \$40,000, \$45,000 and \$50,000.

For a complete list of the GCA industries and amounts, check out our employer fact sheet at wcb.ab.ca > search: guaranteed coverage. 

Changes to the employer and worker reports of injury forms

To ensure that we're capturing the right information and following up with effective support, we've added some new questions to both our employer and worker report of injury forms (C040 and C060).

New legislation introduced in September makes it even more important for all Alberta employers and their workers to work together to have a solid return-to-work plan in place. The updated forms now ask for acknowledgement of responsibility and current status of the following:

- returning an injured worker to the same job or an alternative job after a workplace accident.
- offering and participating in modified work.
- employer-provided health benefits following an accident/injury (and any associated premiums paid by the employer and/or worker). >>