

Interim relief (effective September 1, 2018)

Interim relief is financial support given to workers during the review or appeal process. It is provided in *exceptional circumstances* and is intended to ensure workers are financially equipped to meet basic living expenses while waiting for a decision to be made.

The Dispute Resolution and Decision Review Body (DRDRB) or the Appeals Commission will make the decision to approve a request for interim relief. Requests for interim relief are addressed separately and independently from the issue under review or appeal.

This legislation came into effect on **September 1, 2018** and applies to requests for review or appeal received on or after September 1, 2018.

I have a decision that is under review or appeal. What criteria do I need to meet to be eligible for interim relief?

You may be eligible for interim relief if you meet *all* four of the following conditions:

- You have an arguable case. This means that the evidence presented is plausible and which, if accepted by the decision maker, could substantially affect the decision under review or appeal; and
- The decision under review or appeal affects the entitlement to current wage-loss benefits in an amount greater than \$500; and
- You or your spouse/partner are not eligible for any other financial support (e.g., employment insurance, other forms of disability benefits); and
- Without interim relief, you and your family would:
 - be placed in a situation that you cannot afford the basic necessities of life such as food, clothing and shelter, or
 - face probable forfeiture or seizure of assets (e.g., your family home).

How do I get the interim relief?

The first step is to submit your formal request for review or appeal.

You have three options to begin this process:

1. If you have not already done so, please complete and submit the online [request for review](#). If you have indicated you are experiencing financial hardship, you will receive an email with further information on how to request interim relief benefits.
2. If you cannot access the online form to submit a request for review, you can download and complete the [G040 PDF form](#). You will also need to download and complete a [G041W PDF form](#) to request interim relief benefits. Please send the completed forms by email to drdrb@wcb.ab.ca.
3. If you have already submitted a request for review in any version other than the online form, you will need to complete the [G041W form](#) to request interim relief benefits. Please send the completed form by email to drdrb@wcb.ab.ca. You can also request a paper version by calling toll-free at 1-866-922-9221.

What kind of documentation do I need to send in with my application?

To help WCB assess necessitous circumstance, you must provide current financial documentation confirming your basic living expenses and household income. Here are some examples of documentation that can help us determine if you meet the criteria:

- Denial letter from any other insurance provider from the employer or private coverage.
- Denial letter from Government of Canada services and/or local services that may be available.
- Letter from a spouse/partner living at the same address as you, stating that his/her income will not support the monthly requirements to provide basic necessities.
- Past due bills.
- Letters from debtors supporting probable seizure of assets.
- Eviction notices.
- Other forms of documentation from a third party confirming necessitous circumstances.

Will my employer know that I've applied for interim relief?

Your employer will not be notified that you applied for interim relief. However, if interim relief is granted, your employer will receive a short letter advising them that you are receiving interim relief and it will not impact claims costs and their account. The details of the decision to grant interim relief will not be given to your employer.

If my application is successful, what is the amount of interim relief I can receive?

If your application is successful, WCB will pay you based on the lesser of:

- Your annual gross earnings, or
- Earnings equal to full-time employment at Alberta's minimum wage.

Any wage-loss benefits or employment income you may be receiving will be deducted from the interim relief amount.

How long will I receive the interim relief?

Once interim relief is approved, it is paid from the date of your application for interim relief until a decision is made at either appeal level (DRDRB or Appeal Commission). However, if at any point in the review or appeal period, you no longer meet the conditions, it will be discontinued.

Where can I find more information?

You will find more information in [Policy 01-10](#). Remember, it is effective September 1, 2018 and applies to requests for review or appeal received on or after September 1, 2018. For information regarding the Board's request and management of your personal information, see [Policy 01-02, Part 1](#).

Have questions? Please contact us toll-free at 1-866-922-9221.

