Vocational rehabilitation

Our primary focus after your injury is to assist you in returning to work with your employer. Your adjudicator or case manager will provide you with the support and services to assist you.

In some cases, you may not be able to return to your job. In these cases, if medical information supports that a job change is required, you may be eligible for vocational services. The services you are eligible for depend on the severity of your injury and the impact your injury/illness has had on your ability to return to your date-of-accident level of work and income.

Discuss with your case manager which services you may be eligible for.

If you are unable to return to your date-of-accident employment

If medical information supports that you will likely return to your pre-accident occupation, vocational services may not be considered.

In all cases where your work injury doesn't allow you to fill the full range of your job duties, your case manager will discuss with your employer the possibility of modified work. Modified work can be either a gradual return to your pre-accident employment, a change in your job activities or different work duties.

If medical information supports you are unlikely to return to your pre-accident job duties, your case manager will help you assess your job future with your employer. If a job is not available with your accident employer, your case manager may discuss a change of employment.

Available vocational services

You may be referred for one of the following:

- ***Return to Work Skills Profile (RWSP)*** – This service helps injured workers assess their current skills and abilities to identify realistic employment options.
- ***Job Search Skills Development*** – You will learn various employment search skills such as, how to prepare a cover letter, research prospective employers, and fine tune job interview skills and follow-up techniques. It will help you to organize your job search and to learn about the job market. This will also provide you with support and guidance while seeking employment.
- ***Supported Job Search*** – Individual or group assistance and support during your actual job search.
- ***Career counselling*** – Provided to individuals where career changes and new employment opportunities need to be considered.
- ***Academic Assessment*** – A detailed assessment provided to determine an individual's ability for a long-term academic program. However, assistance is usually provided in finding other employment that builds on your existing skills and abilities. Generally, going back to school is not required.
- ***Ergonomic Assessment*** – An assessment of an existing work environment to determine any changes or modifications that can be made to ensure a safe return-to-work.

WCB-Alberta has approved agencies with proven experience and helpful professional staff. Your case manager will refer you to the one that best suits your situation. As a coaching tool, job search agencies may assist with setting up appointments or interviews with employers if they are aware of opportunities. However, you will eventually be expected to set up your own interviews and appointments with possible employers.

This assistance may be provided from one to twelve weeks (maximum), if required. Other services are usually combined within the same time period.

Training-on-the-job program

This return-to-work program can be arranged with a new employer that you have contacted. WCB-Alberta may support your employment with the new employer by subsidizing your wage for a few months, depending on the training requirements. Contact your case manager for more information.

If you worry that you may not find a job with these services, your case manager is the best person to discuss your concerns with. It is possible you may not locate a job before your vocational services end. You may need to plan for this possibility by contacting other agencies that may provide other services.

There are various other services that are available. Please discuss these with your adjudicator or case manager.