

Scott, Samantha LBR:EX

From: MacDonald, Alex LBR:EX
Sent: April 20, 2020 5:50 PM
To: Bains, Harry LBR:EX
Cc: Scott, Samantha LBR:EX
Subject: FW: Letter from Ralph McGinn Re Recognizing COVID-19 as an Occupational Disease
Attachments: 20200420 Letter to Minister Bains Re COVID-19 Recognition as an Occupational Disease.pdf

Here is the letter.
-Alex

From: Randall, Maritess <Maritess.Randall@worksafebc.com>
Sent: April 20, 2020 5:38 PM
To: MacDonald, Alex LBR:EX <Alex.MacDonald@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Hughes, Trevor LBR:EX <Trevor.Hughes@gov.bc.ca>; Naser, Anne WCB:EX <Anne.Naser@worksafebc.com>
Subject: Letter from Ralph McGinn Re Recognizing COVID-19 as an Occupational Disease

Good afternoon, Alex.

Please find attached a letter for Minister Bains from Ralph McGinn.

Best regards,
Maritess

Maritess Randall

Executive Administrative Assistant, Office of the President & Board of Directors | 604.233.4037

WorkSafeBC

6951 Westminster Hwy, Richmond, BC
worksafebc.com



As more information and resources about COVID-19 become available, we will continue to update the COVID-19 section of our website at worksafebc.com. Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#), and [YouTube](#) for the latest announcements, jobs, workplace health and safety resources, and news from WorkSafeBC.

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are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply email and destroy all copies of the original message.
Thank you.

April 20, 2020

Sent via Email

Honourable Harry Bains
Minister of Labour
Office of the Minister
Ministry of Labour
P.O. Box 9064 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Bains:

RE: Recognizing COVID-19 as an Occupational Disease

WorkSafeBC's Board of Directors has directed the Policy, Regulation and Research Division ("PRRD") to add COVID-19 to the list of diseases in Schedule 1 of the *Workers Compensation Act* on an expedited process. The PRRD will work with WorkSafeBC's Evidence Based Practice Group and Clinical Services to determine the appropriate disease descriptor and associated process, trade and industries to be covered. Consultation will include the Policy Practice Consultative Committee ("PPCC") and an abbreviated consultation with external stakeholders in recognition of the importance of having the presumption in place as soon as possible.

The PRRD will be notifying the PPCC shortly about this project being added to the Policy Priorities Work Plan.

If your office has any questions about the project or process, please feel free to have them contact Lori Guiton, Director of the PRRD at 604-910-2160.

Yours sincerely,



Ralph McGinn
Chair, Board of Directors
WorkSafeBC

Copy: Anne Naser
President and CEO
WorkSafeBC

Trevor Hughes
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Labour

From: [Guiton, Lori](#)
To: [Brad Buck - BC Public Service Agency](#); [Dave Earle - BC Trucking](#); [Haralds, Dave](#); [Dave Keen](#); [Morrison, David](#); [Doug Alley - The Employers' Forum](#); [Kevin Love - Community Legal Assistance Society](#); [Fournier, Kim](#); [Larry Stoffman](#); [Corwin, Lucas](#); [Lucia Salazar](#); [Megan Scott](#); [Merrill O'Donnell](#); [Sam Chauhan - City of Surrey](#); [Sheila Moir](#)
Cc: [Shaw, Ian](#); [Weerapura, Deepani](#); [Kim, Louise](#); [Shafer, Amy](#)
Subject: re: COVID-19, Schedule 1 of the Workers Compensation Act
Date: Monday, April 20, 2020 7:48:55 PM

Hello PPCC members,

Today, WorkSafeBC's Board of Directors ("BOD") met and made a decision to move forward with the expedited process of adding COVID-19 (or potentially more broadly coronaviruses or respiratory communicable diseases depending on the review) to Schedule 1 (formerly Schedule B) *Workers Compensation Act* ("WCA"). As such, this issue has been added to the Policy Regulation and Research Division's ("PRRD") policy priorities workplan.

As you know Schedule 1 is the highest level of designation or recognition of an occupational disease. A disease is added to Schedule 1 in connection with a described process or industry wherever it is satisfied from the expert medical and scientific advice it receives that there is substantially greater incidence of the particular disease in a particular employment than there is in the general population.

Occupational diseases are added to Schedule 1 after scientific and medical research is conducted and stakeholders are consulted on the proposed addition. Once this is done the BOD reviews the findings and stakeholder feedback and makes a decision on the details of the presumption. Because Schedule 1 can only be revised by BOD-approved regulation, the Regulation must be deposited with the Office of the Registrar of Regulations, and any change is only effective 90 days after the regulation is deposited with the Office.

Generally this process can take at least 18-24 months. The BOD has requested the PRRD expedite the process due to the current pandemic. The PRRD anticipates the expedited process will take about 6 months.

The PRRD has established an internal working committee and is working with WorkSafeBC's Evidence Based Practice Group and Clinical Service on obtaining medical and scientific research.

I would like to add this issue to the next PPCC meeting agenda, and advise that while consultation will be abbreviated the PRRD will engage with the PPCC and conduct a shortened public consultation. This item will be added to the policy workplan published on our website later this week.

Kind regards,
Lori

Lori Guiton, LL.B

Director, Policy, Regulation & Research Division | 604.232.5893

WorkSafeBC

6951 Westminster Hwy, Richmond, BC

[worksafebc.com](https://www.worksafebc.com)

From: Guiton, Lori
To: Larry Stoffman
Cc: Buck, Brad PSA:EX; Dave Earle - BC Trucking; Haralds, Dave LBB:EX; Dave Keen; Morrison, David LBB:EX; Doug Alley - The Employers' Forum; Kevin Love - Community Legal Assistance Society; Fournier, Kim LBB:EX; Corwin, Lucas LBB:EX; Lucia Salazar; Megan Scott; Merrill O'Donnell; Sam Chauhan - City of Surrey; Sheila Moir; Shaw, Ian; Weerapura, Deepani; Kim, Louise; Shafer, Amy
Subject: RE: COVID-19, Schedule 1 of the Workers Compensation Act
Date: April 21, 2020 8:10:58 AM

Hi Larry,

Thank you for your email. The Evidence Based Practice Group is an internal department at WorkSafeBC. Here's a link to the group on our website:

<https://www.worksafebc.com/en/about-us/research-services/evidence-based-medicine-and-systematic-reviews?origin=s&returnurl=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.worksafebc.com%2Fen%2Fsearch%23q%3Devidence%2520based%2520practice%2520group%26sort%3Drelevance%26f%3Alanguage%3D%5BEnglish%5D>

At next week's meeting we will discuss how to engage with labour and industry representatives in the process and the various touch points where we can work that into the process.

Because the Board of Directors has directed this project be expedited it doesn't follow our typical process for adding an item to Schedule 1 (former Schedule B).

Kind regards,

Lori

From: Larry Stoffman **s.22**

Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 10:02 PM

To: Guiton, Lori

Cc: Brad Buck - BC Public Service Agency; Dave Earle - BC Trucking; Haralds, Dave; Dave Keen; Morrison, David; Doug Alley - The Employers' Forum; Kevin Love - Community Legal Assistance Society; Fournier, Kim; Corwin, Lucas; Lucia Salazar; Megan Scott; Merrill O'Donnell; Sam Chauhan - City of Surrey; Sheila Moir; Shaw, Ian; Weerapura, Deepani; Kim, Louise; Shafer, Amy

Subject: Re: COVID-19, Schedule 1 of the Workers Compensation Act

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Thank you Lori. Possibly we should add labour and industry rep on the evidence based practice group.

Regards,

Larry

On Mon, Apr 20, 2020, 7:48 PM Guiton, Lori, <Lori.Guiton@worksafebc.com> wrote:

Hello PPCC members,

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Kind regards,

Lori

Lori Guiton, LL.B

Director, Policy, Regulation & Research Division | 604.232.5893

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From: [Hughes, Trevor LBR:EX](#)
To: [Tanner, Michael A LBR:EX](#)
Cc: [Blakely, John H LBR:EX](#); [Leduc, Danine LBR:EX](#); [Hourston, Sveah LBR:EX](#)
Subject: RE: re: COVID-19, Schedule 1 of the Workers Compensation Act
Date: April 21, 2020 5:28:28 PM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

Thanks much. Yes, this is good to have. [s.12](#); [s.13](#); [s.16](#)
[s.12](#); [s.13](#); [s.16](#)

T.

From: Tanner, Michael A LBR:EX
Sent: April 21, 2020 5:23 PM
To: Hughes, Trevor LBR:EX
Cc: Blakely, John H LBR:EX ; Leduc, Danine LBR:EX ; Hourston, Sveah LBR:EX
Subject: FW: re: COVID-19, Schedule 1 of the Workers Compensation Act

Trevor – see exchange below, starting with Lori’s email to the PPCC members about the COVID-19 presumption and the timelines – in case you haven’t seen these details. It looks like the information may be fairly public by tomorrow.

From: Guiton, Lori <Lori.Guiton@worksafebc.com>

Sent: April 21, 2020 5:15 PM

To: Tanner, Michael A LBR:EX <Michael.Tanner@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Blakely, John H LBR:EX <John.Blakely@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: RE: re: COVID-19, Schedule 1 of the Workers Compensation Act

Hi Michael it is. We will have our workplan updated tomorrow and just finalizing a QA for our media team. If you’re interested the BC Feds asked if they could post about it and I asked them to hold off until at least tomorrow until we had our workplan was up and our media team was briefed.

[s.22](#)

Lori

From: Tanner, Michael A LBR:EX [<mailto:Michael.Tanner@gov.bc.ca>]

Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 5:11 PM

To: Guiton, Lori

Cc: Blakely, John H LBR:EX

Subject: RE: re: COVID-19, Schedule 1 of the Workers Compensation Act

WARNING: This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Thanks for this update, Lori. We are doing well here, and keeping busy.
Since you sent this to PPCC members, is this public enough that we can share with the others in the Labour Policy branch so they are aware of this development and work?

Michael

From: Guiton, Lori <Lori.Guiton@worksafebc.com>

Sent: April 20, 2020 7:50 PM

To: Blakely, John H LBR:EX <John.Blakely@gov.bc.ca>; Tanner, Michael A LBR:EX <Michael.Tanner@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: FW: re: COVID-19, Schedule 1 of the Workers Compensation Act

Hello – just wanted to loop you in on this work.

Hope you're doing well,

Lori

From: Guiton, Lori

Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 7:49 PM

To: 'Brad Buck - BC Public Service Agency' <Brad.buck@gov.bc.ca>; 'Dave Earle - BC Trucking ' <davee@bctrucking.com>; 'Dave Harolds - EAO' <Dave.Harolds@eao-bc.org>; 'Dave Keen ' <dave.keen@fraserhealth.ca>; 'David Morrison - WAO' <david.morrison@wao-bc.org>; 'Doug Alley - The Employers' Forum' <doug@employersforum.org>; 'Kevin Love - Community Legal Assistance Society' <klove@clasbc.net>; 'Kim Fournier - Employers' Advisers Office' <Kim.Fournier@eao-bc.org>; 'Larry Stoffman' <larry.stoffman@bcgeu.ca>; 'Lucas Corwin - WAO' <lucas.corwin@wao-bc.org>; 'Lucia Salazar' <lsalazar@fpse.ca>; 'Megan Scott ' <megan.scott@bcgeu.ca>; 'Merrill O'Donnell ' <modonnell@bcbuildingtrades.org>; 'Sam Chauhan - City of Surrey' <sschauhan@surrey.ca>; 'Sheila Moir ' <smoir@bcfed.ca>

Cc: Shaw, Ian <Ian.Shaw@worksafebc.com>; Weerapura, Deepani <Deepani.Weerapura@worksafebc.com>; Kim, Louise <Louise.Kim@worksafebc.com>; Shafer, Amy <Amy.Shafer@worksafebc.com>

Subject: re: COVID-19, Schedule 1 of the Workers Compensation Act

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Lori

Lori Guiton, LL.B

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