



MFUR
Manitoba Federation
of Union Retirees

**Submission to the Standing Committee on
Social and Economic Development Re: Bill (No. 24)
The Workers Compensation Amendment Act
Presented by Paul Moist, President
Manitoba Federation of Union Retirees (MFUR)**

I am pleased to speak this evening on behalf of MFUR. We are retired union members and the Manitoba affiliate to the 500,000 member Congress of Union Retirees of Canada (CURC).

CURC is affiliated to the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) and MFUR is affiliated with the Manitoba Federation of Labour (MFL).

We support fully proposed changes where in instances of a workplace fatality where this is no surviving spouse or common-law partner to receive a lump-sum fatality payment, that it can be paid to the worker's estate or to another person as determined by the WCB.

This change remedies a gap in current coverage and provides fair treatment for families of all types.

Bill 24 introduces a "benefit of doubt" principle for WCB claim adjudication, this change will, we believe, allow workers to access benefits they are entitled to in a timelier manner. We understand that circumstances where this will occur may be rare, where the balance of evidence on a claim is assessed to be balanced, or equal on both sides. But the principle is important, that in such circumstances the "benefit of the doubt" will be given to the worker.

MFUR supports the MFL call for legislative action on the following key areas:

- Increasing injury prevention activities and clamping down on employers claim suppression.

- Removal of current restrictions on WCB coverage for many psychological injuries that do not apply to physical workplace injuries, which often results in such claims being denied.
- Ending the reliance on WCB contracted Healthcare Advisors.
- Eliminating the ability of employers to access injured workers' medical information to facilitate speculative journey's to appeal an accepted claim.
- Eliminating the "Dominant Clause" provision that continues to put the onus on workers with occupational diseases to prove their work is the dominant cause of their disease, thereby barring many from having their claims accepted.

In closing we support Bill 24 and thank you for bringing it forward. I am happy to answer many questions you may have.

