

August 15, 2018

To whom it may concern:

Re: Updates to Appeal Rules, Practice Guidelines & Forms

As a result of recent changes made to the *Workers' Compensation Act* (December 2017), recommendations set out in *Working Together: Report and Recommendations of the Alberta WCB Review Panel* (June 2017), and ongoing feedback from our stakeholders, the Appeals Commission has identified where adjustments to our Appeal Rules, Practice Guidelines and Forms are necessary.

As of September 1, 2018, our most recent amendments will become effective.

Amendments will be made as follows:

- *Practice Guideline #7, Application for Interim Relief* – Parties may now apply for interim relief while awaiting an Appeals Commission hearing. This guideline and application form have been created to assist with this process.
- *Practice Guideline #5, Appeal Rules, Part 5* – amended to instruct parties on the new three-step reconsideration process as set out in the Act.
- *Practice Guideline #4, Appeal Rule 2.3(1)* – amended to reflect the changes to the Act that allow parties two years to appeal a WCB review body decision made on or after September 1, 2018.
- *Practice Guideline #2* – amended to reflect the requirement set out in the Act that WCB must provide us with written reasons as to why it intends to participate in an appeal.
- *Appeal Rule 6.7* – this Rule has been added to advise that the Appeals Commission has implemented a 10-year retention period for appeal records.
- *Appeal Rule 4.13(3)* – this Rule has been added to state that an Appeals Commission decision is that of the majority of the appeals commissioners on a panel.

These revisions will be published on our website at www.appealscommission.ab.ca on September 1, 2018 for you to review. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact George Wright, Manager, Appeals Services at (780) 412-8763.

Yours truly,



Douglass Tadman
Chief Appeals Commissioner