

April 30, 2020

Honourable Scott Fielding  
Minister of Finance  
Room 103 Legislative Building  
450 Broadway  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8

Dear Minister Fielding,

We are writing to you again today about the urgent need to establish presumptive WCB coverage for COVID-19 for all workers who are exposed to the coronavirus at work and contract COVID-19. We are extremely alarmed by the recent WCB data, which reveals that **only 6% of adjudicated COVID-19 WCB claims have been accepted** (just 7 claims out of 123). We urge you to investigate this outcome, and take the steps required to establish WCB presumption and fix the process, which is clearly failing workers badly at the present time.

We know that you understand and appreciate that workers are facing higher risk of exposure to COVID-19 as a result of going to work, for the sake of providing essential services for all Manitobans. As the Manitoba economy starts to re-open next week, even more workers will face potential occupational exposure. It is imperative that we do everything we can to make sure that all workers are safe on the job, and have access to the right kind of WCB coverage if they are exposed and contract COVID-19 at work.

You have previously committed that “if a worker is exposed to and contracts COVID-19 on the job, they will receive WCB coverage.” We appreciate that you want to “do right” by workers, and ensure they receive the coverage they need. Your immediate intervention is required to make sure this happens.

Now, more than ever, we owe to the working people who are showing- up for us, to have the right WCB coverage in place for them. The time to act is now.

Sincerely,



Kevin Rebeck  
President of the Manitoba Federation of Labour

CC. Premier Brian Pallister

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