



Ms. Maryth Yachnin
Mr. David Newberry
Mr. Gary Newhouse

February 8, 2017

**Workplace Safety
& Insurance Board**

**Commission de la sécurité
professionnelle et de l'assurance
contre les accidents du travail**

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Dear Ms. Yachnin and Messrs. Newberry and Newhouse:

I write in response to your letter dated December 21, 2016 in which you question the validity of WSIB return-to-work metrics, including return to work following work transition.

As I have stated publicly on numerous occasions, including most recently during an appearance on TVO's "The Agenda," 92 per cent of injured workers covered by the WSIB return to work with no wage loss within 12 months of injury.

The WSIB uses a robust and verifiable method of data collection and analysis to calculate this statistic and we believe it accurately reflects the return-to-work experience of the injured workers we serve.

I have attached an appendix which provides a detailed explanation of the methodology and the verification methods we use to arrive at our 92 per cent return-to-work result.

Before 2011, the WSIB did not specifically track return-to-work results. In keeping with the practice of other provincial Workplace Compensation Boards (WCBs), we measured claims duration as a proxy for return to work.

Starting in 2011, the WSIB introduced a new Work Reintegration Program, integrating the former Labour Market Re-entry Program. In order to accurately assess the benefits of the new program, we enhanced our data collection and analysis to capture return-to-work results in addition to claims duration. I would like to note that this additional metric makes the WSIB an exception to most provincial WCBs, which continue to focus solely on claims duration results. Return-to-work data is collected, measured and reported on a quarterly basis and the quarterly results are averaged to determine the annual return-to-work statistic. These calculations are validated by WSIB statisticians and our corporate business analytics team.

We would be pleased to arrange a meeting between our statisticians and a qualified professional of your choice to review and discuss the details of our methodology, and answer any detailed questions.

As previously discussed, we remain committed to improving outcomes for the other 8 per cent of injured workers who may not have been able to return to work within a year or who have not achieved their pre-injury level of income.

Within this 8 per cent, we see more complex cases of workers who have suffered a serious injury or experienced other complications. We are working to ensure that our programs support these injured workers to achieve the best possible outcome. In this regard, we welcome the opportunity to continue our discussions with you and other worker representatives.

We invite you to post this letter and the appendix on your website.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Teahen', with a large, stylized initial 'T'.

Thomas Teahen
President & CEO

Enclosure