

# Terms of Reference for the Occupational Disease Advisory Committee

Date: April 3, 1998

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## 1. Purpose

The role of the Occupational Disease Advisory Committee (the "Committee") is to provide advice to the Policy and Regulation Development Bureau (the "Bureau") as to:

- whether a probable relationship exists between a disease and an industry or industrial process in British Columbia and, if so, the circumstances in which a claim for compensation for the disease should be presumed valid under Section 6(3) and Schedule B of the Workers Compensation Act;
- whether a disease should be designated or recognized as an occupational disease by regulation of general application; and
- occupational disease policies of the Workers' Compensation Board (the "WCB") in general.

## 2. Structure

- a. The Director General of the Bureau shall appoint two worker representatives and two employer representatives to serve as members of the Committee. One additional worker representative and one additional employer representative shall be appointed to serve as alternates. The Committee shall be Chaired by the Director General of the Bureau or her designate.
- b. The worker members and their alternates shall be nominated by the B.C. Federation of Labour. The employer members and their alternates shall be nominated by the Employers' Forum to the WCB.
- c. The terms of the members and alternates shall be established on a staggered basis to maintain continuity while bringing fresh perspectives to the work of the Committee.
- d. Meetings shall be at the call of the Chair and shall be held at least once every quarter.

### **3. Responsibilities**

- a. The Committee's initial task shall be to review and advise on items 3A, 5, 8, 12, 13, and 16 in Schedule B.
- b. The Committee's second task shall be to review and advise on whether brain cancer in firefighters should be added to Schedule B .
- c. The Committee shall also undertake periodic reviews of Schedule B and the list of diseases designated or recognized by the WCB by regulation of general application. The Committee shall advise the Bureau whether additions, deletions or other amendments are needed to ensure the Schedule and the list are consistent with the intent of the Act and advances in medical knowledge, industries and industrial processes.
- d. The Committee may provide advice to the Bureau with respect to other occupational disease policy issues which are on the Bureau's schedule or otherwise directed to the Bureau.
- e.. When assessing occupational causation of disease, the Committee shall be guided by the Protocol for The Assessment of Medical/Scientific Information, adopted by the Industrial Disease Standing Committee of the Board of Governors of the WCB on March 2,1993.

### **4. Accountability**

- a. The Chair of the Committee shall, when appropriate, include in the Bureau's monthly report to the Panel of Administrators, updates on the Committee's plans, accomplishments and work in progress.
- b. The Chair of the Committee shall take forward to the Priorities Committee of the Panel of Administrators proposed strategies for reviewing occupational disease policies, after receiving advice from the Committee.