

Office of the President and Chief Executive Officer



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Dear ITF members,

We have received a number of questions on the assistance program the Government of Alberta announced. I recognize the concerns that have been raised by your organizations and understand employers across the province are facing unprecedented challenges due to this world crisis.

Before knowing what unforeseen circumstances 2020 would bring, our Board of Directors recognized the challenges facing employers and chose to use the Accident Fund to subsidize the 2020 rate for all employers, charging an average premium rate of \$1.14, versus the \$1.33 required. This, of course, had an immediate financial impact on the Accident Fund.

When the pandemic started to affect the economy and business, we took quick action to turn off invoicing and interest charges for all employers. This was something within our control as a first step to support our employer community during this pandemic crisis. This will have an effect on the Accident Fund. And the volatility in the investment market has certainly impacted our financial situation.

As you saw yesterday, the Alberta Government wanted to do more. They wanted to provide some financial liquidity to private sector employers. Specifically, they wanted to provide a break from paying WCB premiums until the end of 2020. It is, in effect, an interest-free loan to all employers. They then took the extra step of committing to pay half of 2020 premiums for small and medium size employers. This is the government's decision that we will implement.

We remain committed to working with all employers to get through this crisis together.

Trevor Alexander
President & CEO