

Present:

Lawrie Cherniack, Chair
Rick Rennie, Representing Workers
Lynne Fernandez, Representing the Public Interest
Aaron Dolyniuk, Representing Employers

Also Attending:

Anthony Guerra, General Counsel
Nichole Mirwaldt, Legal Counsel
Wade Derkson, Senior Research and Policy Analyst
Joanne Machado, Senior Research and Policy Analyst, Recording Secretary
Gord McKinnon, Advisory Legal Counsel, TDS
Sacha Paul, Advisory Legal Counsel, TDS

CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:20 a.m. The agenda was accepted as circulated

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes from the January 8, 2026, meeting were accepted as circulated.

FOR INFORMATION

DISCUSSION:

The Committee considered the issue of Manitoba's coverage regime in the context of Meredith principles and the LRC's mandate to consider fairness issues. The discussion focused on mandatory coverage, not on issues around independent contractors and optional coverage. The discussion covered the background of coverage in Manitoba, current status, and where Manitoba is an outlier compared to other Canadian jurisdictions. The Committee also discussed anomalies where an identical or nearly identical business or occupations can be excluded or require mandatory coverage in Manitoba.

The Committee noted the recommendations from the legislation review conducted in Nova Scotia which included adopting a universal coverage model and inquired as to the rationale for the recommendation. The Committee's Advisory Legal Counsel will reach out to their counterparts in that province for more information.

The Committee requested that the secretariat bring back statistics regarding coverage issues (i.e. number of claims reported without coverage, estimated rates for low risks industries that are currently excluded). The Committee has also requested a presentation on the status of the WCB's data management system.

OTHER BUSINESS

Communication Update

The Committee reviewed the metrics provided by WCB's communications department. The Committee was pleased with the LRC's website analytics but had questions around the metrics for social media. The Committee has requested that a representative from the WCB's communication department attend the next meeting to discuss.

CONCLUSION

The meeting concluded at 10:55 a.m.