



This factsheet has been prepared for general information purposes. It is not a legal document. Please refer to the *Workers Compensation Act* and the *Rehabilitation Services and Claims Manual, Volumes I and II* for purposes of interpretation and application of the law.

Factsheet #38
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WAGE LOSS BENEFITS

What are wage loss benefits?

Wage loss is money that you get from WorkSafeBC to replace your wages after you have been injured on the job or disabled by a work-related disease. You get wage loss benefits so long as your injury continues to disable you from work and while your injury is considered by WorkSafeBC to be temporary. When your injury is no longer temporary, then wage loss benefits will stop.

Wage loss benefits may be paid for temporary total disability or for temporary partial disability. If you are capable of working reduced hours or in some other reduced capacity, you may only receive partial benefits which will compensate you for the income loss which relates to your disability.

Wage loss benefits are not paid if you are not working due to your fear that you may re-injure yourself or aggravate your injury. However, vocational rehabilitation benefits may be payable in those circumstances.

After wage loss stops you may be able to get an award for your permanent disability or for retraining or rehabilitation benefits. For more information on retraining or rehabilitation benefits see the Factsheet *Vocational Rehabilitation*.

How does the WorkSafeBC describe a temporary injury?

WorkSafeBC looks at the following things to decide if you have a “temporary” injury:

- reports from your doctor saying that you cannot go back to work;
- reports from your doctor describing the kind of treatment you are getting;
- reports from your doctor saying that you are significantly improving or getting worse as a result of the treatment you are getting; and
- the opinion of a WorkSafeBC doctor that your injury will get significantly better or worse in the following 12 months. Sometimes the WorkSafeBC doctor (called a Medical Advisor) will examine you.

For more information:
Website: www.labour.gov.bc.ca/wab



Lower Mainland/Fraser Valley/Kootenays: 1-800-663-4261
Northern & Central Interior: 1-800-663-6695
Vancouver Island: 1-800-661-4066

WAGE LOSS BENEFITS

How long do I get wage loss benefits?

You get wage loss benefits while you are recovering from your injury. This means that you will no longer get wage loss benefits if:

- you recover from your injury; or
- your condition is permanent.

If your injury becomes permanent, then WorkSafeBC may give you a permanent partial disability award.

If WorkSafeBC decides to stop your wage loss benefits, it should tell you as soon as possible and provide the reasons in writing.

What can I do while I am on wage loss benefits?

You must tell WorkSafeBC about any work that you do, or employment income that you receive, while you are on wage loss benefits.

If you plan on going on vacation or leave British Columbia, you must let WorkSafeBC know and get approval from your doctor. Otherwise, WorkSafeBC will not pay your wage loss benefits. If you leave British Columbia, WorkSafeBC will only pay the same medical costs as in British Columbia.

WorkSafeBC will also want to know that your travel plans will not slow down your recovery. If WorkSafeBC feels travelling will cause a delay in your recovery, it might not agree to the travel and may cut off benefits if you leave without approval.

How do I get paid?

You will get a cheque mailed to you every two weeks. Sometimes you can arrange to pick the cheque up, if you need to.

How soon do I get paid?

If three weeks have gone by since you were hurt, and you still have not received a cheque from WorkSafeBC, you should contact the person handling your claim.

What if I disagree with a decision?

If you do not agree with the WorkSafeBC decision, you have the right to request a review. You must request a review within **90 days**. If you disagree with the Review Division decision you have **30 days** to file an appeal to the Workers' Compensation Appeal Tribunal.