

WCB Annuity Program



What is the Annuity Program?

The Annuity Program compensates eligible workers for loss of retirement income.

How does it work?

Funds are set aside on behalf of workers until they turn 65. At age 65, the amount is transferred to an annuity provider of the workers' choice.

Who qualifies for the program?

The program applies to workers who become entitled to extended wage loss benefits on or after January 1, 2019. A worker must also have received wage loss benefits for a cumulative period of more than 24 months. The qualification criteria must both be met for the same injury; to qualify for the program.

What if I have received Extended Wage Loss Benefits prior to January 1, 2019?

Any worker who was in receipt of Extended Wage Loss Benefits prior to January 1, 2019 may be eligible for Pension Replacement Benefits. For more information on this program please contact the WCB at 902-368-5680 or toll free at 1-800-237-5049, email benadmin@wcb.pe.ca or refer to POL-124, Pension Replacement Benefits.

How is the annuity contribution calculated?

The WCB sets aside an amount equal to 5% of the worker's extended wage loss benefits.

The amount set aside is in addition to the worker's extended wage loss benefit amount.

Can I make contributions to the fund?

Any worker eligible for the annuity program can elect to contribute an additional 5% to the fund. The workers' contribution is deducted from each extended wage loss benefit payment. The decision to contribute must be made when a worker first qualifies for the Annuity Program.

Are the funds that are set aside for the Annuity taxable?

The funds accumulated to the age of 65 are not taxable. When the accumulated amount is transferred to an annuity provider, tax implications can be discussed with them.

Is it possible to access the funds before I turn 65?

Annuity funds cannot be accessed until age 65. The only exception is when extended wage loss benefits cease before the worker reaches age 65. In this situation, the fund will be transferred to the annuity provider selected by the worker after the final wage loss benefit payment is made.

What if I have an overpayment?

If a worker in an overpayment situation with the Board when the annuity funds become payable, any remaining overpayment will be deducted from the total amount prior to the funds being transferred to the annuity provider.

Can I get my annuity as a lump sum?

If all funds held on behalf of the worker is less than \$10,000, the amount will be paid in a lump sum to the worker, at age 65.

What happens to my annuity, if I die before I turn 65?

If a worker dies before reaching age 65, the amount will be paid to the beneficiary designated by the worker. If the worker did not designate a beneficiary, the amount will be paid to the worker's estate.

Will I receive a statement?

Annual statements showing both the principal and the interest that has accumulated, will be sent to all participating workers.

Who do I contact to learn more?

For more information about the Annuity Program, please contact the WCB at 902-368-5680 or toll-free at 1-800-237-5049, email benadmin@wcb.pe.ca or refer to POL-154, Annuity.



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