



Plain Language Summary for
Bill 48: *An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act No. 2*

The Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission (WSCC) has introduced Bill 48: *An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act, No.2* to expand and update certain presumptive coverage for firefighters and first responders.

Presumptive coverage means a diagnosis is presumed to be work-related, removing the need at the start of the claims process to establish a connection between a worker's job and their illness.

The *Workers' Compensation Act* currently provides presumptive coverage for firefighters for 14 types of cancers, as well as cardiac arrest in limited circumstances. The Act does not have a post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) presumption for firefighters or first responders. PTSD claims are reviewed through the regular claims management process.

The amended Act will:

1. Expand the current presumptive coverage, to be prescribed in regulations under the *Workers' Compensation Act*, for firefighters from 14 to 27 types of cancers. This expansion will provide the most comprehensive cancer coverage for firefighters in Canada.
2. Expand presumptive coverage for heart disease and heart injury for firefighters. Additionally, the definition of firefighter will now include workers engaged in fire inspections and investigation.
3. Introduce presumptive coverage for PTSD for front-line workers and emergency-response workers (continuing care assistants, correctional officers, sheriffs, emergency response dispatchers, firefighters, nurses, paramedics, territorial police officers and members of a search and rescue organization).

The WSCC had started work in 2023 to expand firefighter presumptive coverage, however, in early 2025 paused its work upon the introduction of a private member's bill on May 28, 2025 in the Legislative Assembly (Bill 29). When Bill 29 did not fully proceed on procedural grounds, the Minister responsible for the WSCC committed to bring forward this government initiative to better align with national standards for protecting the health of firefighters and first responders.

During the review of Bill 29, engagement of the public and stakeholders occurred and a thorough study of presumptive coverage for firefighters and first responders was undertaken by the Standing Committee on Government Operations. In addition, the Minister responsible for the WSCC has met with key stakeholders.

For additional information or questions, contact:

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