



Presumptive Coverage for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) in Police Personnel

The PAO is requesting assistance and support in obtaining presumptive coverage for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) in police personnel from the Legislature at Queen’s Park. This involves a change to Schedule 3 of the Workplace Safety & Insurance Act (WSIA). Under the WSIA, workers are entitled to compensation for mental stress that is the result of a ‘sudden, unexpected traumatic event.’

PTSD is a disabling emotional condition that can affect police personnel. Presumptive coverage arising from inclusion of police personnel in Schedule 3 will provide health and social benefits to any officers diagnosed with the condition, as well as overall cost savings by getting those officers treated and back to work more quickly and efficiently.

Currently, a significant number of PTSD claims by police personnel are initially denied by the WSIB, but are eventually accepted by the Workplace Safety & Insurance Appeals Tribunal (WSIAT). The appeal process is a lengthy one that exacerbates the patient’s stress disorder and compromises the effectiveness of treatment.

Since the PAO began meeting with the WSIB on this issue, WSIB has recognized the need to make improvements. Some recent changes include having designated Adjudicators and a dedicated Appeals Resolution Officer to “fast track” PTSD claims. The PAO continues to meet with WSIB to address the ongoing challenges with respect to preventing and reducing the impact of PTSD in police employment.

The inclusion of PTSD in Schedule 3 of the WSIA still allows for rebuttals by the employer and the possibility of a claim being denied.

Presumptive coverage for PTSD in police personnel would:

- Eliminate the legal and health related costs associated with lengthy appeals;
- Allow officers to receive appropriate care quickly, thereby decreasing the length of time an officer is off work;
- Prevent associated long term health issues and possible suicide;
- Validate the illness and those who suffer from it;
- Create a more accepting environment for PTSD sufferers and a more hospitable work environment for police officers to seek treatment.

[For additional information please contact](#)

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