

April 1, 2020

Via email

Winston Maharaj
President and CEO
Workers Compensation Board of Manitoba

Dear Mr. Maharaj,

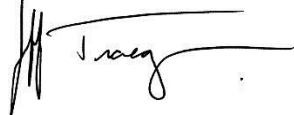
Manitoba workers are working under unprecedented health challenges as Manitobans navigate the COVID-19 situation. UFCW Local 832 is Manitoba's largest private sector union representing 18,000 members across our province. Our members work in food production and distribution, warehousing, grocery stores, security, hospitality, and personal care and assisted living sectors. We are calling on you to designate presumptive coverage for COVID-19 related illness experienced by our members in all these sectors and all front line workers in Manitoba.

Our members who are working in government mandated critical areas as per the updated Public Health Act which takes effect on April 1, 2020, are in daily contact with large numbers of their co-workers and with the general public. While our union is working hard with each of the employers in the various industries to mitigate the risks of contracting the COVID-19 virus, our members are on the frontlines and consequently they are at risk.

Therefore, we are calling on you to designate presumptive coverage for COVID-19 related illnesses for workers who are required to continue to work at this time. Workers who become ill should not have to fight to prove their COVID-19 related absence from work is work related when they are continually exposed to their co-workers and to the public.

All workers deserve to know that there are extra precautions being taken to keep themselves and their families safe and that if they become ill, WCB help will be there for them.

Sincerely,



Jeff Traeger
President
UFCW Local 832

c: Kevin Rebeck; Minister of Finance R. Fielding; Michael Werier

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