

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR THE WORKERS' SAFETY & COMPENSATION COMMISSION

The relationship between a Minister and the Commission, as a quasi-judicial body, is particularly sensitive. Although, the Minister must not intervene in specific decisions of the Commission, the Minister has important roles and responsibilities to ensure the workers' compensation system is operating properly.

The Minister appoints the Governance Council of the Commission who is accountable for the overall effectiveness of the Commission. In order to ensure the workers' compensation system is working properly, the Minister must appoint competent persons to the Governance Council and monitor their performance. If these persons are not ensuring the overall effectiveness of the Commission, the Minister is responsible to take appropriate steps to rectify the deficiencies in their performance.

The Governance Council in turn is not involved in the day-to-day operations of the Commission; they appoint a President who is accountable for the operations.

The Commission is accountable to the Legislative Assembly through the Minister for its performance. The Minister is accountable to ensure that sufficient information is given to the Legislative Assembly so they can make an informed assessment of the Commission's performance. This is primarily done through approving the annual report, which is tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

The Minister is also responsible for approving the Commission's corporate plan and budgets. The corporate plan sets out the Governance Council's vision for the work it seeks to do over the coming years. Approving the corporate plan affords the Minister the opportunity to provide general guidance to ensure that the government's objectives and expectations for the Commission are being addressed.

The workers' compensation system is more than just the Commission; it also includes the Appeals Tribunal and the Workers' Advisor. The Minister is responsible for appointing qualified persons to these positions and to monitor their performances. Like the Governance Council, if these persons are not performing to the necessary standards, the Minister is responsible to take appropriate steps to rectify the deficiencies in their performance.