

# **Vocational** Rehabilitation **Services**

## What is Vocational Rehabilitation?

Vocational Rehabilitation is the process of helping an injured worker who is unable to return to their pre-injury job find other work or increase their employability. The WSCC offers referrals to Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) services for eligible injured workers to help them gain skills to find a new job.

# How do I qualify for Vocational Rehabilitation services?

You may be referred to VR services if you are unable to return to your pre-injury work, or your employer prevents you from returning to work due to your work-related injury. If you are a seasonal or contract worker and able to return to your pre-injury work, but it is after the end of your normal work contract, you would not be entitled to VR services.

### The eligibility criteria to be referred to VR services through the WSCC are:

- ▶ You have a work-related injury that prevents you from returning to your preinjury work, or employment that is comparable to your pre-injury work.
- You have a pre-existing condition that complicates your work-related injury, and this prevents you from being able to return to your pre-injury work, OR your pre-injury employer prevents you from returning to your previous work, or other suitable work with your employer.
- ▶ You are left with an impairment after you have recovered but your employer has not provided a return to work plan, **OR** your health care provider says that ongoing exposure to conditions in your previous work could cause a recurrence or significant aggravation of the work-related injury, or impairment.

Continued on next page

# What happens after a Vocational Rehabilitation referral?

After the WSCC sends your referral to specialists in VR, a Vocational Rehabilitation Counsellor (VR Counsellor) will be assigned to you. Your VR Counsellor will contact you and work with you directly to create a vocational rehabilitation plan (VR plan).

A VR plan is a written document that outlines your re-employment goals, and the steps needed to achieve them. The VR plan is created through considering your interests, current skills, education, employment experience, and abilities.

# Will I keep receiving compensation benefits for lost wages?

You will continue to receive any compensation you are entitled to under the *Workers' Compensation Act(s)* while you participate in VR services. You will also continue to receive VR benefits as long as you are working towards your vocational goals in a timely manner and are fully participating in your VR plan.

Your VR services will end once you have found a job, regained employability, or complete your VR plan.

If you have any questions about Vocational Rehabilitation, contact your Adjudicator or Case Manager who can help guide you through the process and answer any questions you may have.