

Ready for  
Introduction

Bill No. 138

Mr. Werry

## Motion for Leave to Introduce a Bill

MR. SPEAKER:

I beg leave to introduce a Bill, being The Workmen's Compensation  
Advocate Act.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

(Signed) \_\_\_\_\_

Bill 138  
1971

THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ADVOCATE ACT

(assented to \_\_\_\_\_, 1971)

HER MAJESTY, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, enacts as follows:

1. In this act:

- (a) "Act" means The Workmen's Compensation Act;
- (b) "Board" means the Workmen's Compensation Board.

2. (1) There shall be appointed, as an officer of Board, an officer called the Workmen's Compensation Advocate.
- (2) The Workmen's Compensation Advocate may be assisted by such other advocates and such additional staff as may be required for the proper performance of their duties.

3. The Workmen's Compensation Advocate shall upon request advise pensioners and claims applicants upon any provision of the Act or administration that may have any bearing upon their pension claims and may assist the applicant in preparing a written or an oral presentation to the Board in furtherance of such claims.

4. For the purpose of sub-section(3) Workmen's Compensation Advocates are empowered to attend and assist the pensioner claimant or dependant, or in his absence represent him at any hearing before the Board which he is entitled to be present.

5. (1) The Board may appoint such officers as it deems necessary for carrying out the provisions of this Act and may prescribe their duties and fix their remuneration;
- (2) Every person so appointed holds office during the pleasure of the Board.

6. The provisions of this Act are in addition to the provisions of any other Act or any rule of law under which

- (a) any remedy or right of appeal or objection is provided for any person,  
or
- (b) any procedure is provided for the inquiry into or investigation of any matter, and nothing in this Act limits or affects any such remedy or right of appeal or objection or procedures.

7. This Act comes into force on the day on which it is assented to.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

In the terms of today's complex society, governments, their boards and agencies, generally give inadequate attention to the individual citizen grievances. Too often a citizen is not aware of the grievance procedures which are available to an individual, and even if he does, he often feels helpless in dealing with government.

Under the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act a claimant does not have the right to have anyone assist him when he appears before the Board. A large majority of those appearing before a board are ill equipped in preparing and presenting their problems before a technical administrative board.

This Bill sets up the office of a Workmen's Compensation Advocate whose duties would be threefold:

1. Provide information and advice to claimants and pensioners regarding the administration of the Workmen's Compensation Act.
2. Assist the applicant in preparing a written or oral presentation to the Board.
3. Represent the claimant or pensioner at any hearing before the Board.