- Is the present workers' compensation system "no fault"? Are injured workers being blamed for their injuries?

- How well does the present workers' compensation system serve injured workers? What has worked well? Are there problems and obstacles with claims and appeals?

- Is compensation available to injured workers for the duration of their injuries?

- Are employers paying the full costs associated with workplace injuries and diseases?

- How is the collective liability system working? Are individual employers protected from the financial impact of individual claims?

- Is the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board an independent organization?

At the end of the hearings , 'Meredith' will write another 'Final Report' that will summarize and reflect upon what he has learned. This report will be presented at the international conference on workers' compensation being held in Toronto, Oct 31 - Nov 2. 2013.

HEARING DATES & LOCATIONS

INFORMATION ABOUT THE DATES, TIMES AND LOCATIONS OF THE NEW 'MEREDITH' HEARINGS CAN BE FOUND AT WWW.MEREDITH100.CA

PRESENTATIONS CAN BE WRITTEN AND/OR ORAL. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN MAKING A PRESENTATION PLEASE DIRECT YOUR REQUEST TO ORLANDO BUONASTELLA, 416-461-2411; ROBERT STOREY, 905-525-9140, EXT. 24693; MEREDITH@MCMASTER.CA.

SIR WILLIAM MEREDITH'S COMMISSION ON WORKERS' COMPENSATION RECONVENED

Sir William Meredith's Royal Commission on Workmen's Compensation

In 1910, the Conservative Government of Sir James Witney appointed Justice Sir William Meredith to head a Royal Commission on the operation of workmen's compensation laws and systems in Canada and elsewhere around the world.

Over the next three years Meredith gathered written evidence, and, most importantly, held hearings in five southern Ontario cities where he listened to injured workers, trade unionists, manufacturers, retailers and insurance specialists talk about what they wanted in a new workmen's compensation law for Ontario.

During his Royal Commission Meredith stated that he believed workmen's compensation laws were "social" legislation with the purpose of providing "fair" compensation to injured workers so that they would not fall into poverty and become a burden on their families and communities.

Final Report

In October 1913 Meredith published his "Final Report." In it he outlined the fundamental principles that he believed should form the basis of a fair and just workmen's compensation system. Over the past 100 years these principles have become known as -

Meredith's Principles

- o No fault
- o Non-adversarial
- o Compensation for as long as the disability lasts
- o Employer pays
- o Collective liability
- o Independent public agency

New 'Meredith' Hearings

Over the past 20 years the workers' compensation system in Ontario has been altered in many important ways - often in the name of "Meredith's Principles." Injured workers have contested many of these changes claiming that they violate both the content and the spirit of the original "Meredith Principles."

In response, 'Meredith' is returning. The organizers of an international conference on workers' compensation commemorating the 100th Anniversary of Meredith's "Final Report" are scheduling a new set of 'Meredith' hearings. Over the next few months these hearings will take place in cities across Ontario in order to find out how the workers' compensation system is working. 'Meredith' is inviting injured workers, and others who have been directly affected by the workers' compensation system, to give testimony at these hearings.

All forms of testimony will be welcome but 'Meredith' will be particularly interested in learning about the following: