

Kathleen Wynne: Why are injured workers under attack?



Dear Premier Wynne,

We are writing to you as a group of workers who have been injured on the job, and have been struggling with a workers' compensation system that treats us very unjustly.

We wrote to you on July 3 of this year with several considerations about how you can help the injured workers of this province, now that you have been elected with a majority government based on social justice ideals. You responded to us thanking us for our comments, and saying you valued our input. We appreciated these words. But the actions you have taken since writing us these words have left us feeling betrayed and disappointed.

In your mandate letter to the Minister of Labour, you have instructed him to remove the 72 month lock-in for injured workers. Do you know how damaging this will be for us? In the current system, we live with a 6 year probation that allows the WSIB to put us under surveillance, reduce our compensation, or cut it off completely. But removing the lock-in means that the probation period will last for our entire lives. We will live under constant fear of being put under surveillance, and we could be cut off compensation at any time. Injured workers will have no security or piece of mind.

We would also like you to answer our question about whether or not you will be paying a bonus to the President of the WSIB, David Marshall. We know he is in line to receive a \$400,000 bonus for reducing costs. Well, these cost cuts have come squarely on the backs of injured workers. Will you, the social justice Premier, reward Mr. Marshall for causing so much pain and destitution for injured workers?

And since Mr. Marshall's term will be ending soon, will you be re-appointing him? Will you give him the green light for another two or three or four year term to undermine our workers' compensation system?

Premier Wynne, the injured workers of this province deserve to be included in your vision of a fair and just Ontario. You have already written to us saying you want to hear everyone's voice. Now we would like to hear you speak directly to us, and address the actual questions we are asking you.

We thank you in advance for your response.

Sincerely,

Bright Lights Injured Workers' Group

(Original was signed by 26 injured workers on October 2nd, 2014)