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### **WSIB President Earns Bonus Cutting Injured Workers' Benefits**

The Ontario Network of Injured Workers Groups has learned through an access to information request that WSIB President David Marshall's appointment by the Ontario government includes a bonus of up to \$400,000, payable at the end of five years, for achieving certain financial goals and objectives, in addition to his annual salary of \$400,000 per year.

"He's getting paid to cut our benefits. We have always been concerned that WSIB funding would be tackled by cuts to injured workers. The WSIB would be fully funded if the Harris government had not drastically reduced employers' rates, but every time someone raises a concern about funding we find cuts to the benefits of injured workers." said ONIWG president Peter Page.

In an open letter to the Premier, ONIWG points out that the terms Mr. Marshall's appointment create a huge conflict of interest between the government's commitment that "full funding will not be achieved on the backs of injured workers" and Mr. Marshall's significant financial incentives to reduce WSIB spending on injured workers. The letter details drastic cuts that are evident in figures recently released by the WSIB:

- Initial Entitlement: 50% increase in claims denial rate
- \$631 Million benefits cut
- Vocational Retraining slashed from 19 months to 5 months
- 29% Reduction in long term benefits for permanently disabled
- 31% Reduction in permanent impairment awards
- Reduction in medical expenditures on injured workers
- Layoffs of 200 WSIB staff

In September 2011, President Marshall took over the power of the WSIB Board of Directors to approve all operational policies, including changes to those previously approved by the Board of Directors. "He's taken total control of the WSIB. With the Board of Directors having no control over policy setting, nothing stands in the way of Mr. Marshall in pursuit of his bonus." says Karl Crevar, Treasurer of ONIWG.

ONIWG has called for Premier McGuinty to revoke the terms of Mr. Marshall's appointment, reinstate the power of the WSIB Board of directors to determine operational policy, review Mr. Marshall's salary in consideration of the poverty that injured workers and others in Ontario are experiencing and eliminate any bonus that creates an incentive to cut injured workers off.

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