

PETER PAGE
President

Steve Mantis
Secretary

Karl Crevar
Treasurer



HEAD OFFICE
310-500 Green Rd.
Stoney Creek, ON.
Canada, L8E 3M6
Tel. (905) 662-7128
Fax (905) 662-9160
E-mail: oniwg@sympatico.ca
www.injuredworkersonline.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 30th, 2012

Health and Safety Rebate and Surcharge Incentive System Harms
Injured Workers International Experts Agree

At an international symposium organized by a Toronto-based research institute, experts have gathered from across the county and from overseas to discuss the merits and shortcomings of the controversial health and safety financial incentive, directed at employers, called experience rating.

Karl Crevar, Treasurer of the Ontario Network of Injured Workers' Groups (ONIWG) said: "Our position has been consistently clear, experience rating causes harm to injured workers and their families. We call for its abolition."

Experience rating functions by giving employers a rebate if the cost of claims at their establishment is lower than expected and a surcharge, if higher. ONIWG observes that injured workers are pressured by their employers not to report an accident. The theory of the program is that it supports health and safety, however ONIWG observes that it works against health and safety.

At to-day's conference, at the University of Toronto, ONWIG members heard international experts affirm that abuse of injured workers is common within the experience rating systems and that it has little or no effect on improving workplace health and safety. Rather it has spawned an industry of litigation and gaming the system.

Steve Mantis, Secretary of ONIWG says: "The evidence is in. Its time to take action. We believe there is a better way."

For further information contact: Steve Mantis 807-630-7824 or our office.