



THUNDER BAY & DISTRICT INJURED WORKERS' SUPPORT GROUP

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MEDIA ADVISORY – January 9, 2013 – for immediate release

Rally at 12:30 PM, Thursday January 10th, 2013 at MPP Gravelle's office 179 Algoma St. South Thunder Bay

The Thunder Bay Injured Workers accuse the McGuinty Government of cutting benefits for the injured & disabled to try to solve years of underfunding of Ontario's workers' compensation system. Ontario businesses had their assessment rates lowered to the tune of a billion dollars a year since 1997.

Janet Paterson, President of the TB&DIWSG said, "Injured Workers in our city are currently receiving letters from the WSIB informing them that while inflation was 1.7% in 2012, our benefits will be adjusted by 0.5%. Since 1997, we have lost over 20% in the value of our pensions."

Our workers' compensation system is meant to protect workers, their families, and the broader public against both the harm and the costs of work-related injuries. This system was created to provide injured workers with prompt and secure benefits that compensate them for as long as they are disabled.

If unchecked, recent initiatives by the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board, will spell the end of workers' compensation as we have known it. The Board's management, led by CEO and President I David Marshall, with the apparent support of the provincial government, have instituted changes that will limit workers' entitlement to benefits to a short period after the injury. Instead of a system that compensates workers for injuries, we will be left with system where most workers' claims are denied and the few workers whose claims are accepted will be forced either back to work or into poverty.

"When will this government stand up for its citizens?" added Paterson. "It looks like big business wins again."

For more information, contact the Janet Paterson at 472-6910 or Steve Mantis at 767-9633 or 630-7824.