

Peter Page
President

Steve Mantis
Secretary

Karl Crevar
Treasurer



HEAD OFFICE
620 Concession St.
Apt. 203
Hamilton ON.
Canada, L8V 1B6
Tel. (905) 745-1003
E-mail:
oniwg1990@gmail.com

July 17, 2013

Hon. Yasir Naqvi
Minister of Labour
400 University Ave
14th Floor
Toronto, ON
M7A 1T7

Dear Minister

We are very disappointed to hear **no** announcement to implement Professor Harry Arthurs' recommendations to address the unfunded liability by increasing assessment rates or provide cost of living adjustments. Instead the WSIB announced there will be **no assessment rate increases in 2014**. This is contrary to what Professor Harry Arthurs' Funding Review recommended.

In your response to a letter dated May 28th, 2013 to address the Auditor General's concerns, The Ministry and the WSIB developed the following strategy:

- Formed WSIB action plan to reduce the unfunded liability, **Including increases to the average rate paid by employers.**
- Appointed Professor Arthurs to get stakeholder input on reducing the unfunded liability **and provide advice to the Minister on a new benefit indexation formula.**

The unfunded liability is still a concern for your government and presumably the WSIB. If there is no rate increase, how will the goal of 60% funding be reached through 2015, 2016, and 2017? The auditor general recognized rate increases as a key lever, and Professor Arthurs made it very clear that the rates must go up to cover the costs of the Board, including the unfunded liability. He made it clear that it not correct to reduce injured worker entitlements and benefits administratively in order to achieve the goal.

There has been no action on Professor Arthurs' recommendation to re-introduce full cost-of-living protection for injured workers.

There was minimal rate increase just after Professor Arthurs' report came out, but completely insufficient. It is beyond our belief that there is not even a minimal increase contemplated for 2014.

Minister, your government is on record **stating that reducing or eliminating the unfunded liability would not be on the backs of injured workers and their families.** You have stated that your government is committed to treating workers and their families with fairness, dignity and respect.

What is currently happening is contrary to those statements.

Under the current administration of the President I. David Marshall and the Chair Elizabeth Witmer, we see an alarming trend to deny and reduce benefits, cutting staff, shifting the costs on to the backs of injured workers and their families and to the taxpayers of Ontario.

Increases in poverty and despair, homelessness, family breakups are on the rise.

This Minister is not fair. This is not living with dignity. This is not respect.

We have serious questions about Mr. Marshalls' role in the administration, in particular, details of his salary (\$ 400,000.00/yr / 5yrs and bonus 20% /yr payable at the end of 5yrs.

Is there not a conflict of interest?

The current issues arise as a result of Bill 99 . Ms. Witmer was the Minister of Labour responsible. Reducing premium rates by one third and eliminating virtually any indexation of benefits through the Friedland Formula by 50% minus 1.

On June 1st Injured Workers Day, I believed your words of sincerity. Through your Ministry you have an opportunity to do the right thing. Give people hope. If you are willing to take giant steps, we will continue to work toward restoring fairness, dignity and respect with you.

We ask you to give very serious consideration to our concerns.

We also ask to meet with you and your staff again to discuss these issues and others that are causing unnecessary hardship for injured workers and their families.

Looking forward to meeting with you in the near future.

Yours respectfully

**Karl Crevar
On behalf of ONIWG.**

**Cc ONIWG Executive
Premier Kathleen Wynne
Syd Ryan President OFL
Andrea Horwath Leader ONDP**