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Hamilton, ON L8V-1B6

January 4, 2016

Honourable Kevin Flynn  
Minister of Labour  
400 University Avenue  
14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto, ON M7A 1T7

Dear Honourable Minister,

You may ask yourself why injured workers are so angry. Why do they continue to protest in front of Queen's Park, the Ministry of Labour or the Workplace Safety & Insurance Board? Why? Could it be that they feel left out of society? A society they participated in and contributed too, raised families in, paid taxes in, only to be neglected when injured. Injured workers pour their hearts out to you in song, letters, street theater, hunger strikes and social media. Some workers who may already suffer from low grade depression and who were able to manage it in silence suddenly find it exacerbated by their dealings with the WSIB. The Ontario Network of Injured Workers Groups have long suspected that suicide can be attributed to suffering through a workplace injury as it is a life changing event. Yet these injured worker's pleas are ignored.

Sure you restored cost of living (COLA) and ended the use of the Freidland Formula but allowed I. David Marshall President of the WSIB to decimate and destroy our 100-year-old compensation system. The implementation of I. David Marshall's WSIB policies under his direction were introduced solely to reduce benefits paid to injured workers. This fact is borne out in the reduction of the unfunded liability and Ms. Witmer's promise to employers of a two-billion-dollar rebate, plus the reduction in assessment rates as well. By the way COLA is not an increase in benefit levels paid to injured workers but simply helps to stop the erosion of those benefits due to inflation. While employers are rewarded immediately, injured workers must wait another two years before receiving full cost of living. By that time, I. David Marshall's administration cuts to injured workers' benefits will be locked in. Few injured workers will be receiving long term compensation. Not because they were miraculously cured by Marshall's chosen medical experts, but because they were wrongfully cut off. You and your government know this to be true but pretend otherwise. I guess another two years of pain for injured workers is economically justified under your watch! Injured workers believe; we are the cost of doing business! Employers and big business have the ear of government and your government had best listen to their demands. Meanwhile injured workers must stand outside Premier Wynne's Queen's Park window demanding to be heard.

I realize that the greater good must be served in society but it seems to me that the citizens of this province are the greater good not greedy employers. We all must do our part to make society a better place, obey the law, work hard, and treat others as you would want to be treated with respect and dignity. This is a collective effort to achieve these goals and we all must do our part to help in that collectiveness. Yet injured workers are left out of this social contract and pay the cost of the compensation system through benefit reduction. Their injuries and the pain suffered from those injuries

ignored. The injured worker's social and economic rights under the "Charter of Human Rights" ignored, the social contract broken!

Injured workers have heard politicians stand up and say how terrible it is for injured workers to be treated so callously but all injured workers ever hear are hollow words. Injured workers feel betrayed by the Liberals under Premiers McGuinty and Wynne. They promised the unfunded liability (UFL) would not be on the backs of injured workers and it was. They said the aim was to retire the UFL now it turns out that the aim was to reduce employer rates and make it cheap employer insurance! No wonder injured workers are stressed out! Who among the politicians will finally speak and have the truth ring true. What politician's action will set him or her apart in history as the one who stood up for a group so easily maligned and forgotten by those who purport to care for them? Who Mr Flynn who?

Yours truly,

Peter Page  
Injured Worker

c.c. Premier Kathleen Wynne  
Andrea Horwath, Ontario Leader NDP  
Patrick Brown, Ontario Leader Conservative Party