



# WOMEN OF INSPIRATION

Offering Support, Knowledge Transfer & Education  
and Outreach to Women Injured at Work

30 April 2015

**COPY**

The Honourable Kathleen Wynne  
Premier of Ontario  
Legislative Building  
Queen's Park  
Toronto, Ontario  
M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Wynne:

Re: Eliminating the 72 month lock is bad for injured workers

We are following up on our letter dated October 7, 2014, since we have not yet received your response. Please find a copy of our 2014 letter enclosed for your ease of reference.

We are gravely concerned with your government's plan to amend the *Workplace Safety and Insurance Act* to eliminate the "72 month lock in".

Our foremost concern is eliminating the lock-in will cause unnecessary emotional distress to injured workers. We can tell you from our own experiences that injured workers live in fear of the WSIB. Fear that our benefits will be cut off or reduced at the whim of the WSIB. Fear that we will suddenly be left with no way to pay our rent or feed our families.

With the present situation, this fear dissipates after lock in at 6 years. There are no more requests for tax information. We no longer feel our hearts thump when the phone rings, fearful that it will be our WSIB case managers on the other end. If there was no more lock-in, we would never have this peace of mind.

Injured workers frequently suffer mental health conditions. Without the protection of the lock-in, we would remain vulnerable to adverse WSIB decisions. The added stress of this ongoing threat would only aggravate the mental health challenges that many of us struggle with.

C/O Injured Workers' Consultants - 815 Danforth Ave., Suite 411  
Toronto, Ontario M4J 1L2

Injured workers are one of the most vulnerable stigmatized groups in society. We cannot afford to lose the protection, however modest, that the lock in provides.

We urge you to stop the impending changes to the WSIA on this matter. Please revise your mandate letter to the Minister of Labour, and leave the lock in legislation alone.

We look forward to hearing your response.

Sincerely  
Women of Inspiration

*[Handwritten signatures and names]*  
Mary Asoma, A.S. Robinson, D. Sinclair, Myra Stokell, Petra  
C. [unclear], [unclear], Sylvia Clarke, Heather Chouinard, St. John  
Mariamu Williamson, injured workers, Konstanz

cc: Kirsten Mercer