



# WOMEN OF INSPIRATION

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

3 December 2015

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

Dear Premier Wynne:

**RE: New WSIB President**

As you know, the Women of Inspiration (WOI) have been meeting for the past 15 years. We continue to meet regularly to encourage and support each other as we struggle to cope with the effects of our work related injuries and the impacts this has had on our lives and that of our families. At our November meeting, we discussed I. David Marshall's departure from the Workplace Safety & Insurance Board (WSIB) and what qualities we thought his replacement should possess. We strongly believe that injured workers should have a say in who is chosen as the next President of Ontario's WSIB, and ask that you consult with us and other injured workers throughout the selection process. We know that other injured worker groups and advocates have also asked for this. In particular, we feel that candidates should be interviewed by injured workers of this province. We suggest that a forum be held where stakeholders can ask questions of the proposed candidate(s) to assess whether that person would be a good fit.

In terms of what candidate would be a "good fit", as women injured workers, we believe that the following are ideal qualities the President of Ontario's WSIB should possess. First and foremost, the head of the WSIB should believe in the founding principles of the WSIB, and understand that the purpose of the system is to serve and protect injured workers. We need someone who knows us – who knows our history and our plight. Ideally, the new president should not come from a banking background, should care about injured workers, and to take part in genuine dialogue regarding matters of interest to injured workers. Furthermore, we believe that this replacement should be a person of good character, such that

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they are caring, compassionate, and have a deep respect for not only injured workers, but our doctors and their opinions. Finally, the financial bottom line of the workers' compensation system should not be at the forefront of a system that is intended to protect workers who are injured at work.

Examples of people who meet all of these qualities are Orlando Buonastella from Injured Workers' Consultants, and the lawyer and scholar Ron Ellis.

In summary, we ask that the recruitment process for the new president be fair, transparent, and consultative. We feel all parties being considered for the position should be interviewed by injured workers of this province.

We would like to meet with you to discuss and explore our ideas of who the new president should be and what a fair WSIB system should be.

We anxiously await your reply.

Sincerely,  
Women of Inspiration

*Handwritten signatures:*  
Mary Asoma  
Deborah Robinson  
D. Sinclair  
Mays Stivalle-Perrault  
Sylvia Clarke  
Heather Chisum van Hagen  
Mariamu Williamson injured worker  
Konstantinos

- cc. The Hon. Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario
- The Hon. Kevin Flynn, Minister of Labour
- The Hon. Andrea Horwath, Leader of the Ontario NDP
- The Hon. Patrick Brown, Leader of the Ontario PC Party
- Eugene Lefrancois, Ontario Network of Injured Worker Groups
- Elizabeth Witmer, Chair of the WSIB
- Amanda Bugatto, Odgers Berndtson