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Media Advisory

**TUESDAY MAY 31ST – OVERNIGHT VIGIL AT 3 P.M.
WEDNESDAY JUNE 1ST – INJURED WORKERS’ DAY RALLY AT 11 A.M.**

May 31st - Overnight Vigil by Injured Workers at Queen’s Park

The Women of Inspiration, a local injured worker group, will begin an overnight vigil at Queen’s Park beside the front steps of the Legislature until the June 1st rally begins. Reform of the workers’ compensation system is very important to people who are suffering. Every year for the past five years they have been there to remind MPPs that many injured workers cannot sleep because they have to worry about pain and poverty.

June 1st Rally – Its Raining Cutbacks at Queen’s Park

This is the 28th anniversary of Injured Workers' Day which highlights the principle that injury should not mean poverty and celebrates working together as a community. Injured workers will speak out about cutbacks in workers compensation with skits, musicians, poets, puppets and props that will ensure this is a lively and colourful event.

Although the economy is recovering, injured workers are facing cuts. The cost of living rose by 3.3% over the past year, but injured workers only received a 0.5% adjustment. Injured workers with chronic pain are facing cuts to their pain medications. Permanently disabled workers who need to retrain are facing shorter courses. Injured workers who can’t find suitable work can be cut off compensation and deemed to be working anywhere in the province.

With a provincial election coming, injured workers want a commitment to justice for injured workers from all parties. Injured workers believe that all workers in Ontario should be covered by the Workplace Safety & Insurance Act; full cost of living adjustments should be made to compensation for lost earnings; harmful employer incentive programs like experience rating that encourage hiding work injuries must be eliminated; the practice of cutting off workers before they are employed must cease; and the funding concerns of the WSIB must not be addressed by cuts to benefits and services to injured workers. Workers deserve safe and healthy workplaces and fair compensation for workplace injuries.

Minister of Labour Charles Sousa, WSIB Chair Steven Mahoney and Ontario Federation of Labour President Sid Ryan have agreed to speak, along with unions and injured worker groups.

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For more information call:

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and see www.injuredworkersonline.org**