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ONTARIO NETWORK of INJURED WORKERS GROUPS

'IN UNITY THERE IS STRENGTH'

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Injured Workers are being forced to return to work before they are medically fit!

Injured Workers' benefits reduced by 27% while employers' assessments have increased by only 2 %!

Over 2 million dollars wasted on Funding Review by Workplace Safety Insurance Board (WSIB)!

The Ontario Network of Injured Workers Groups (ONIWG) has been consulting with their members from across the province this week. While WSIB and elected Government officials have promised that solving the alleged unfunded liability issue and any resulting cuts would not be on the backs of injured workers, we are finding that WSIB policies & practices are in fact doing just that by cutting various injured worker benefits and entitlements.

ONIWG members have profound concerns with some of the present practices at the WSIB. They identified the following issues as most critical at this time:

- Cuts to seriously injured workers with life-long injuries and diseases, cuts to medications prescribed by their doctors, cuts to hearing aids and assistive devices, cuts to medical and therapy treatments, cuts to cost of living adjustments (COLA), forcing workers back to work despite the fact that they have been deemed medically unfit to return to work by the worker's treating physician;
- Expanding the Experience Rating program giving even more rebates to employers and creating unsafe, adversarial conditions for workers;
- Funding Review – WSIB hires Professor Arthurs to conduct an independent study but turns around and tells him what their position is. Legitimacy concerns over funding review now validated. Was Review just for show?

Our members groups are seeing a significant increase of families in crisis due to these cuts to injured workers benefits. The system is failing almost half of all Injured Workers with a serious permanent injury.

ONIWG is willing to work with WSIB on addressing these areas of concerns, however, it must be a collaborative effort and serious commitments must be made by the WSIB Board to cease these ongoing attacks on injured workers benefits.

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