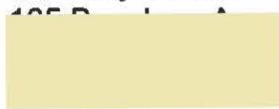


8 June 2017

Bright Lights Injured Workers' Group  
c/o Beryl Brown



Honourable Kevin Flynn  
Ontario Ministry of Labour  
400 University Avenue, 14th Floor  
Toronto ON  
M7A 1T7

Dear Minister Flynn,

**Re: The unfair practice of Deeming and the impact of minimum wage on injured workers**

Bright Lights is a group of workers with injuries or illnesses who gave our best to Ontario, and continue to give our best. We come together regularly to support each other and to fight for a better compensation system.

On the letter dated 6/04/2017 (attached), our group wrote to you regarding the WSIB's practice of "deeming" (which they now refer to as "determining"). Our letter reminded you of the promise that was made by your government to 'eliminate deeming' in 2007 and how nothing has changed. In this letter, our group posed a question we have yet to receive an answer to:

*Is your government going to continue to enable the WSIB to practice deeming and 'determining'; to pretend that we have jobs, or are you going to do the right thing and make the WSIB base our benefits on reality, instead of the jobs they pretend we have?*

This question is even more important today, especially after the proposed increases to Ontario's minimum wage in coming months and years.

While we all support this much needed increase to minimum wage, Ontario's practice of deeming injured workers means this wage increase will actually hurt us. Injured workers compensation benefits are often based upon the difference between pre-injury earnings and **deemed** post injury earning. Because of the unfair practice of deeming, injured workers receive benefits based upon the assumption that they are capable of working at a minimum wage job, when in fact they are unable to work. As such, the rise in minimum wage leaves behind a group of workers in Ontario – injured workers. If the practice of deeming remains the same as it is today our benefits will be decreased because of the higher deemed post injury earnings of the “phantom jobs” you assign us. No unemployed injured worker who is deemed at minimum wage should have their compensation reduced or eliminated due to the increase in the minimum wage.

Injured workers who are unable to return to work and are deemed to be earning by the WSIB are of low income and would have to resort to other social safety nets such as OW and ODSP. This unjust downloading onto other social insurance systems is translated onto municipal administrations, budgets and the responsibilities of the taxpayers, rather than collective employers' liability. We all struggle due to the real consequences of deeming.

We continue to ask you the same question: Will the government continue to allow the WSIB to practice deeming; base our compensation on phantom jobs we are not able to do, and reduce our benefits?

We appreciate your time and consideration, and look forward to discussing this further.

Sincerely,

*Bright Lights*

**Cc:**

Cindy Forster  
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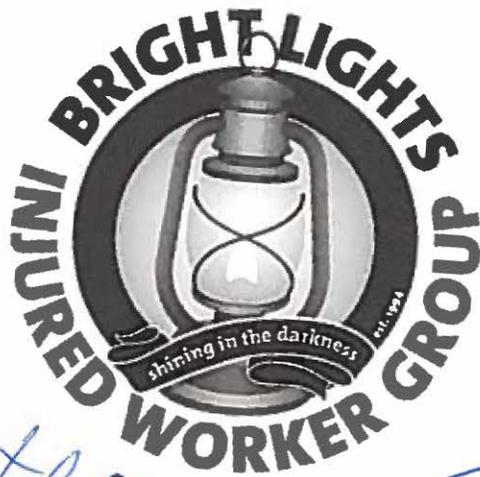
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