



February 1, 2018

Bright Lights Injured Workers' Group
c/o Beryl Brown
165 Bonshaw Ave.
Newmarket, ON
L3X 2X1

Premier Kathleen Wynne
795 Eglinton Ave East, Unit 101
Toronto, M4G 4E4
Fax: 416-425-0350

Dear Premier Wynne,

Injured Workers' Campaign and Minimum Wage

We are a group of workers who have suffered injuries on the job, and who have been meeting regularly since 1994. We come together every month to discuss and take action on critical issues facing injured workers, and to provide each other with peer support as we go through the workers' compensation system.

Thank you for meeting with some of our Bright Lights group members: Anne-Marie Mattyasovszky, Rebecca Lok and Rachel Gnanayutham on January 26, 2018. We also called your office today, February 1, 2018, and spoke of our concerns to your staff.

We are glad to know that you have taken a stance to stand up with workers across the province. We especially support the raising of the minimum wage to \$15/hour by 2019.

However, at the meeting we drew your attention to how the WSIB's practice of "deeming" causes minimum wage increase to have adverse impact on workers with permanent injuries. We want to ensure that deeming is not used to reduce our compensation benefits as the minimum wage goes up. We ask you and the government step in and stop the WSIB from deeming injured

workers to have phantom jobs that don't exist. Injured workers are forced even deeper into poverty because of deeming and the effect the raise in minimum wage will have upon their compensation. We also need government action to stop the WSIB from ignoring our treating doctors, and from cutting our benefits based on pre-existing conditions that never affected us before our work injuries. We ask for quality healthcare (especially maintenance therapy) for us to recover. We also ask that we are treated with dignity and respect after our injuries by the WSIB.

We were once workers that contributed to province's economy. All we ask is that we are treated fairly and that Workers' Compensation gets treated as a right that we all share with justice.

At the meeting, we provided you with petitions collected by our '*Workers' Compensation is a Right*' Campaign. We would like to remind you of our request to pass it on to your colleagues to read the petition out.

Thank you for your consideration of this issue.

Sincerely,

Bright Lights Injured Worker Group

CC:

Kevin Flynn, MPP
Minister of Labour

Cindy Forester, MPP
Labour Critic, NDP

John Yakabuski, MPP
Labour Critic, PC



Jim Zheng

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