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August 13, 2020

Ms. Elizabeth Witmer,  
Chair, Workplace Safety & Insurance Board  
200 Front St. W.  
Toronto, ON  
M5V 3J1

Hon. Monte McNaughton,  
Minister of Labour  
400 University Ave., 14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto, ON  
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Dear Mrs. Witmer and Min. McNaughton,

The recent resignation of Tom Teahan, President and CEO of WSIB, is a sharp reminder to injured workers that we currently are without representation on the Board of WSIB. Since Scott Wilson's term ended, there hasn't been an injured worker perspective on the Board.

As the largest and only democratically run organization representing injured workers, the Ontario Network of Injured Worker Groups, established in 1991, has long advocated that the injured worker representative on the WSIB Board of Directors be chosen from amongst its membership. With 25 groups representing injured workers from Thunder Bay to Niagara to Windsor to Ottawa, ONIWG has members with all types and levels of experience. Just as the Labour representative on the Board represents and liaisons with Labour, so too should the injured worker representative. We need an injured worker representative who is part of the broad injured worker movement so that this individual is able to bring the perspective of injured workers from across the province. We believe that a member from amongst ONIWG's membership could provide that perspective. As the individual appointed is ultimately an Order in Council, voted upon by MPPs on the Standing Committee on Government Agencies, we realize how an individual is selected is up to both the Board and the government. As long as the injured worker representative comes from amongst the ONIWG membership, we would be satisfied.

We also believe there should be an injured worker representative on the hiring committee for Mr. Teahan's successor. As you both are well aware, employers and injured workers are the two main stakeholders of WSIB. And as such, we strongly believe those two stakeholder groups should be on the hiring committee as the next President and CEO will set the direction of the agency going forward.

As you each play a different role when it comes to filling the vacant position of the injured worker representative on the Board and the establishment of a hiring committee for the next WSIB President and CEO, that is why we have addressed this letter to both of you.

If either of you have any questions on either of our proposals, don't hesitate to reach out to me. I'd be more than willing to sit down and flesh these out. I look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards,



Willy Noiles,  
Executive Vice-President,  
Ontario Network of Injured Worker Groups  
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Ms. Andrea Horwath,  
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