

Bright Lights Injured Workers' Group

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Bright Lights Injured Workers' Group
c/o Mrs. Emma Osso
75 Furrow Drive
Whitby, Ontario
L1N 5K2

October 14th, 2010

Honourable Premier Dalton McGuinty
Queen's Park
Legislative Building Room 281
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1A1

Dear Premier McGuinty,

The Bright Lights Injured Workers Group met in Toronto to-day to review and discuss the September 30th announcement from the Ontario workers compensation system, the WSIB, regarding a *Funding Review*.

Mr. Premier, it is hard to know where to begin to express our serious concerns about the nature of this review and our serious disappointment in your government's ability to address the ongoing issues raised by injured workers.

We would like to have a meeting with you.

In the meantime, we ask that you address some critical weaknesses in the *Funding Review* process:

- Please note that the framework for the review has lost sight of the fundamental principles that our compensation system is built on—the Meredith principles. As presently framed, it is clear to us that our very system is at risk of becoming no different from a private insurance system. We request that the panel have an advisory committee regarding Meredith principles and that it be required to be familiar with them.
- Please note that the Auditor General's report which raised the funding issue indicated there are *four levers* for an improved financial picture. One of them is *universal coverage*. The panel is addressing issues which require legislation -- why not this one which has already been recommended by the Smith Enquiry in 2003?

- Please note that the review has been commissioned by the Board itself and the Board has already laid out its looked for conclusions: full funding (Which is not required and has weaknesses); a new formula for cost-of-living which will still be less than full cost-of-living (Why cannot even the simplest demand of injured workers for full-cost-of living be met? A Liberal government brought it in the 1980's—what is wrong with now?); and a deepening of the system of "experience rating" (This is a complete turn about from a commitment to reform the system and possibly terminate it due to the harm that it does to injured workers.) What sort of commission starts out with its conclusions?
- Please note that a letter has gone out to every employer in the province under the compensation system which assures employers that the ultimate goal is to reduce employer rates (not improving the system for injured workers); which tempers the announcement of the rate increase, by implicitly encouraging employers to make use of the experience rating system to get rebates; and which encourages employers to get involved in the review. Please note that no equivalent letter went out to the injured workers of the province.

We request that a similar letter be sent out to all the injured workers in the province—those on benefits and those who have received a pension or NEL. We further request that understanding that Human Rights legislation requires the accommodation of the disabled and as such, the Board needs to make provisions to assist injured workers from around the province to be able to make their presentations and to make them in person. Injured workers do not have the same access to funds as employers to have their voice heard.

Thankyou for your consideration of these initial points. We hope that you will take action on them as soon as possible and will be pleased to discuss these and other related issues with you at any time.

In addition, we do request a meeting with you and your staff to discuss our situation, our concerns, our fears, and our hope.

Yours Sincerely,
The Bright Lights Group of Injured Workers

W. J. ...
Rose Country
Mypa St. Malles - Permat
St. ...
A. Stagnotta
St. ...
Syria Clarke
...

Aurora Gonzalez

D. Petropoulos

~~Bynne~~

~~James J. Hernandez~~

~~Bynne~~
Beryl B. Bynne

Eddie Telle

Swinder Garcia

Melky

~~Peterson~~

~~[Signature]~~

John McKenna

L. Lume

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cc Hon. Peter Fonseca, Minister of Labour
Mr. David Marshal, President, WCB/WSIB