

**PETER PAGE**

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January 14, 2011

Honourable Dalton McGuinty  
Room 281 Main Legislative Building  
Queen's Park,  
Toronto, ON  
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### **Broken Promise to Injured Workers?**

Dear Premier McGuinty:

Your government through Minister of Labour Fonseca, as well as through WSIB Chair Steve Mahoney has repeatedly reassured injured workers that the concerns about the WSIB Unfunded Liability would not result in benefit cuts to injured workers. During the clause by clause debate on Bill 135, on December 6, 2010, Leanne Pendergast reassured Peter Tabuns that **“full funding would not be achieved on the backs of injured workers”**.

The reality, unfortunately, for injured workers and our families is different. We have received formal notice that the cost of living adjustment for this year is only 0.5%. The CPI index for Canada was 2.40, and in Ontario was even higher.

Mr. Premier, **a cost of living adjustment below inflation is a benefit cut**, as you well know. Our research shows that since your Government was elected, WSIB cost of living adjustments have kept behind inflation by 6.8% despite the adjustment thought Bill 187.

The ONIWG is not interested in political polemics, but is very concerned about the poverty of injured workers. We are very concerned that your government is dealing with the WSIB unfunded liability on the backs of injured workers.

As you will remember, it was the Mike Harris Government that reduced our benefits on the altar of the unfunded liability. That government ensured that the unfunded liability would continue by reducing employer premiums by 25%.

Mr. Premier, the injured workers of Ontario did not cause the unfunded liability. We are the people for whom the workers' compensation system was set up. We are the ones who need your help. We urge you to ensure full cost of living protection to injured workers now. Please heed the words of Professor Paul Weiler, whose study was commissioned by the Tories and who said, in 1980, that it is unjust for Ontario to deny injured workers the protection from inflation. This measure would be in line with your concern about reducing poverty in Ontario.

Sincerely,

Peter Page

cc. Peter Tabuns, Andrea Horwath, Sid Ryan