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Who We Are

Injured Workers Action for Justice (IWA4J) is a non-profit organization of injured workers and their supporters. We fight to improve the quality of life of injured workers through collective actions and collaborations. We work with social justice organizations, politicians and other injured worker advocacy groups. We welcome new ideas, information and members.

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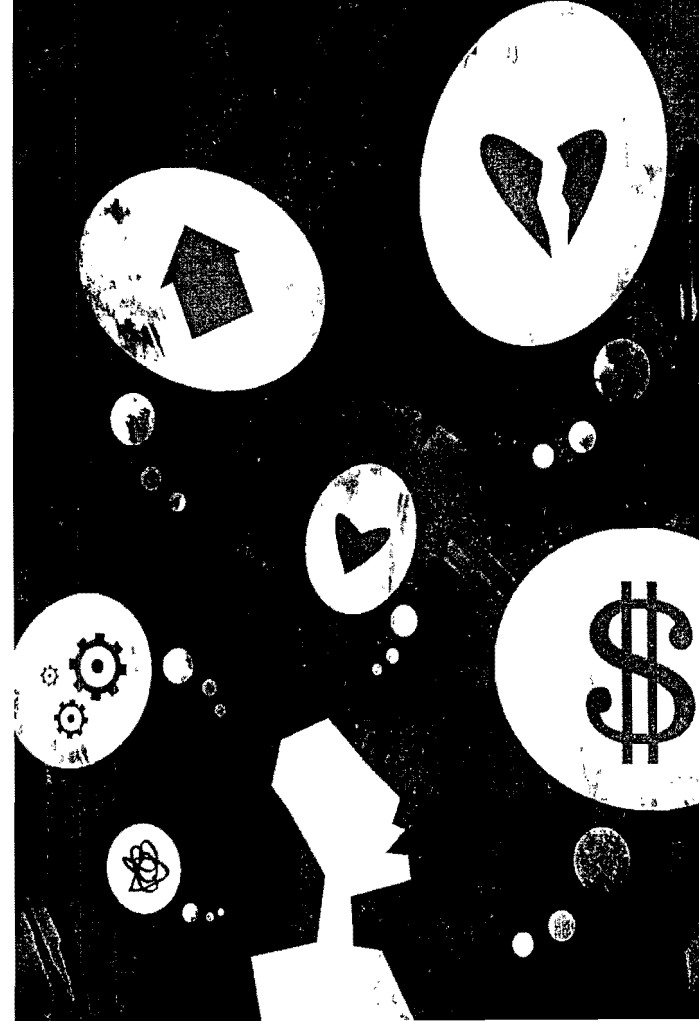
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INJURED WORKERS

ACTION FOR JUSTICE

Have you been Deemed?

What is deeming and how can you stop it.



Deeming is when the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) treats injured workers like they have a job even if they do not.



IWA4J

What is Deeming?

Injured Workers are told (often - but not always - after retraining) that they can and should find suitable work in a particular occupation (called "Suitable Occupation" or "Suitable Employment or Business").

The WSIB then imagines injured workers to be working in that occupation and imagines or "deems" that they are earning a certain wage in that occupation.

After assuming that injured workers are making their "deemed" wage, the WSIB then reduces or eliminates workers' loss of earnings benefits.

History of Deeming

Deeming became law in 1989 because employers and the Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) thought that injured workers were being "over compensated".

Prior to deeming, injured workers were paid a pension for life that recognized the overall hardship the disability caused (not just lost wages). If you had a wage loss because of your disability, you would receive a supplement to the pension.

Unlike deeming, the pension system meant that as long as you could show you were co-operating you received wage loss compensation. Now, it doesn't matter if injured workers have a wage loss and cooperate, they still get "deemed"/cut off compensation.

What are the Problems with Deeming?

Injured Workers have a hard time finding jobs after a permanent injury because:

Re-training Programs are often not reputable – they do not provide the necessary skills or credentials to prepare them for a job in the field.

Employers are often unwilling to hire people with disabilities when they could otherwise hire someone healthy.

Injured workers resumes are often missing years because of their disabilities and using their accident employer as a reference is not an option.

Often their pain limits their ability to work.

Deeming assumes workers are to blame if they are unable to find a job.

The WSIB refuses to acknowledge the many social barriers Injured Workers face when trying to get and keep a job.

