

Injured Workers' Day – June First 2007

Injured workers' day is a day remembers and celebrates the contribution injured workers gave, and continue to give, to our Province and our Country. We remember not only the injured worker, but the family of the injured worker. Injury should lead to dignity, not poverty and isolation. We want to participate fully in all aspect of society, we want true dignity and respect. Some of our demands are:

- All workers should be covered by our workers' compensation system. In Ontario, 30% of workers have no such public coverage.
- Workers' compensation should not reduce the injured worker to poverty. Today, most workers with a permanent injury that prevents them from working are living blow or at the poverty level.
- The Meredith Principles that created our system in 1915 need to be re-established. Injured workers cannot sue their employer, yet the justice they were promised is missing. The principle of "compensation as long as the disability lasts" needs to be brought back.
- Injured Workers do not have automatic cost of living adjustments, like CPP disability recipients, for example. While the Ontario Government has granted a 3 step adjustment in the last budget, it does not address past and future losses.
- The practice of "deeming" needs to be abolished. "Deeming is the system that reduces or eliminates compensation by pretending that an injured worker is employed after injury. The result is a "phantom job" and reduced or denied compensation. The Ontario Government has passed laws with the stated intention to eliminate this practice, but we challenge the WSIB to be true to this intent. The powerful employer lobby has frustrated injured workers' demands before.
- Dignity and respect for injured workers means: time to heal from injury, a simple and supportive system free of bureaucratic hassles, respect for the treating physicians, no time limits on appeals and to resolve injustices, changing the current "insurance" name to "Workers' compensation Board", making injured workers – not employers – the true purpose of the system.

This summary of injured demands has been compiled by the IWD organising committee. For further comments or to help future events call us at 416- 461-2411 or email oniwg@sympatico.ca