

PETER PAGE

President

Steve Mantis
Secretary

Karl Crevar
Treasurer



HEAD OFFICE

310-500 Green Rd.
Stoney Creek, ON.
Canada, L8E 3M6
Tel. (905) 662-7128
Fax (905) 662-9160

E-mail: oniwg@sympatico.ca

Media Advisory
MONDAY JUNE 1ST – QUEEN'S PARK

**POVERTY STUDY RELEASED– INJURED WORKERS' DAY RALLY
OVERNIGHT VIGIL BEGINS**

Press Conference 9:30 a.m. – Poverty Study Released

The Ontario Network of Injured Workers' Groups will release its report on the poverty of injured workers at a press conference in the Queen's Park Media Room at 9:30 a.m. The system was set up in 1915 to "prevent injured workers from becoming a charge on their relatives or the community" in the words of its founder Justice William Meredith. The study suggests we have turned the clock back.

The findings from more than 200 injured workers polled reveal nearly 4 times the rate of poverty in Ontario. It looks at the people who fall through the cracks of our workers' compensation system and end up on social assistance. Depression, strained family relationships and loss of quality of life are common for injured workers and their families. Several injured workers whose poverty is documented in the study will be available to speak to the media about it.

Injured Worker Rally 11:00 a.m. - 26th Anniversary

The injured worker and labour communities and their families will gather again this year at Queen's Park at 11 a.m. Monday June 1st for the 26th anniversary of Injured Workers' Day. The event highlights the principle that injury should not mean poverty and celebrates their work together as a community.

Peter Fonseca, Minister of Labour, Steve Mahoney, WSIB Chair, and Andrea Horwath, NDP leader, have agreed to speak at the event. Peter Page, President of the Ontario Network of Injured Workers Groups, will be the chair. Unions and injured workers groups will participate. Skits, musicians, poets, puppets and props will ensure this is a lively and colourful event.

Overnight Vigil by Injured Workers

A group of injured workers will begin an overnight vigil at Queen's Park outside the main doors of the Legislature until Question Period begins on Tuesday June 2nd. They will be there to remind MPPs that many injured workers cannot sleep because they have pain and poverty to worry about. They want to remind MPPs that reform of the workers' compensation system is very important to people who are suffering.

- 30 -

For more information call:

Peter Page - Ontario Network of Injured Worker Groups (905) 543-9090
Orlando Buonastella - IWC (416) 461-2411
and see www.injuredworkersonline.org