



NEW RELEASE

June 1, 2011

Injured Workers' Day-CAW Calls For Immediate Changes To WSIB

CAW Local's 27, 88, 302, 636, 1106, 1520, 1859, 2163 and 2168 call on the Ontario Provincial Government to make changes to the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) that will provide injured workers with fair and just benefits.

Workers' compensation was established close to 100 years ago. It was supposed to ensure that the employer had the responsibility to bring dignity and justice to the worker injured on the job. But, instead, the WSIB is increasingly becoming an employer-dominated insurance system aimed at reducing costs for employers and giving employers more power to pressure workers.

More and more workers are suffering injuries on the job. Repetitive Strain Injuries are a good example. These injuries are on the rise, particularly among older workers. In 2010 in Ontario 386 workers were killed on the job, a total of 242, 371 claims were established of which 60,609 were lost time claims.

More and more workers choose not to report injuries and, if anything, rely instead on their disability insurance to get lost time benefits. And those who are reporting injuries are having a harder time.

CAW is calling on the Ontario Provincial Government to support the right of workers injured on the job to fair and just compensation.

The CAW joins with others to say that injured workers are tired of the constant attack on their right to workers' compensation. When a worker is injured, his/her livelihood is at stake. Workers' compensation was established to ensure that the employer has the responsibility to make things right for the worker – not as an employer insurance scheme aimed primarily at protecting employers.

The compensation board was set up to ensure that workers get due justice for their injuries. Instead we are threatened with being cut off our benefits or losing our jobs if we are injured.

CAW wants the Ontario Government to take action to reform the workers' compensation system.

Workers' go to work each day to make a living. When workers' get injured, they should not be treated like disposable goods. Injured workers have a right to a job and to earn their way. Moreover, injured workers' have a right to dignity and compensation for injuries.

Stop the pressure and intimidation of injured workers.

We demand:

- ❖ Job Security with Dignity or Full Compensation
 - No more walking wounded – forced back to menial jobs with no security
 - No more being cut off benefits with nowhere to turn
 - No more kickbacks (Experience Rating) to employers for covering up injuries and harassing injured workers
 - Full compensation for loss of wages
 - No more jumping through hoops – remove the barriers and streamline the system.
 - Full coverage for all workers

- ❖ Full Respect for the Workers' Medical Practitioner
 - We have a right to choose our own doctor
 - No more overruling the workers' doctor

- ❖ Lifetime Pensions for Lifetime Injuries
 - A lifetime injury means loss of income and well being for life
 - We want a lifetime pension to cover that loss
 - We used to have the right to a lifetime pension we want that right back!

- ❖ Full Cost Of Living for workers' compensation benefits
 - When we are injured the rise in the cost of living eats away at our benefits
 - We deserve full cost of living protection – all ages all workers

The CAW calls on MPP's of the Ontario Provincial Government to take action now to make the necessary changes to the workers compensation system in Ontario so that injured workers are treated with dignity and respect.

Over 2 weeks CAW Local's will be visiting MPP's to highlight the need for changes and to seek a commitment from each MPP to promote and support these changes.

CAW Local's 27, 88, 302, 636, 1106, 1520, 1859, 2163 and 2168 represent workers in London, Ingersoll, Woodstock, Kitchener, St. Thomas and Tillsonburg.

For more information please contact the area members of the CAW Council WSIB Committee
Jim Reid, Vice President-CAW Local 27 @ 519-455-3430; Joe Graves, Benefits Representative-CAW Local 88 @ 519-425-3134 x3342; Jim Farrell, Financial Secretary-CAW Local 636 @ 519-537-5942 or Dennis McGee, President-CAW Local 1520 @519-652-5552.