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‘In Unity There Is Strength’

**ONIWG/RAACWI Injured Worker Poverty Survey
Provincial Plan – March 1, 2009**

At the ONIWG conference in October 2008, we decided to do a survey of the poverty of injured workers across Ontario. This follows the poverty research done last year in Thunder Bay that proved to be a great success and got lots of public attention.

We are asking you and your group to help out. The first stage of this project is to gather as many completed injured worker surveys as we can and release the results for June 1st. The second phase will continue gathering completed surveys in preparation for release of the results at the Christmas demo.

We hope you can integrate this injured worker poverty survey in your regular activities and use it to build stronger local groups and partnerships with our allies.

We are seeking the support of local groups to make this a success province wide.

Some steps for local groups to take to complete a poverty survey.

We have reworked the Thunder Bay survey in Toronto in conjunction with RAACWI and Bonnie Heath to make it more plain language a bit shorter.

- ❖ Determine the strategy for recruiting injured workers to complete the survey.

Options:

- Partner with other groups to reach more injured workers – homeless shelter, services to street people, mental health groups, local unions, legal clinics, OWA, OHCOW, therapy clinics, etc.
- Complete surveys at public meetings, group meetings, support groups, RSI Day, Day of Mourning, etc.
- Complete surveys as part of intake at your local injured worker group office.
- Use community outreach – newspaper, community bulletin boards, snowball approach, ??
- Hold a special meeting with local promotion (Hurt at work? Are you an injured worker? Come help document your experiences.) Perhaps have a guest speaker.
- Go to the schools where injured workers are doing LMR.
- Use the web based survey monkey

- ❖ Use as an organizing tool – potential to grow your group
 - hold a special event and ask participants to complete the survey
 - have a “tear off” final page of the survey which asks a few questions “want to find out more about poverty among injured workers?” and “do you want to help out?” along with a space for their name and contact info. This can then be separated from the survey so the survey remains confidential.

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- ❖ Set a goal of the number of surveys completed.
 - this could be anywhere from 40 (like Thunder Bay did) to 100 or more for larger cities.

- ❖ Plan a strategy for tabulating the surveys:
 - determine the computer program – possibly excel
 - hire someone
 - get a volunteer

- partner with the local University or College for a student on placement
identify possible departments – sociology, labour studies, etc.

- ❖ Do the analysis – this could be just looking at the totals for each question and put them into percentages;
 - could do more in-depth analysis – *suggestions*
 - see if we can involve Becky Casey – who did the Tbay survey project.

- ❖ Prepare a written report – could use TB&DIWSG report as a model
 - could use other research, RAACWI, etc.
 - use images of poverty – clinics/regs could help out with stories from their casework
 - quotes from some of RAACWI's research – eg. Ellen MacEachen's complex claim study has quotes from injured workers.
 - should ONIWG develop a draft report that could be modified and used by local group?

- ❖ Do a media release or media conference.
 - could be done in conjunction with a community meeting. In Thunder Bay we invited local politicians and community groups to the media release.

- ❖ Share with community agencies, unions, etc.
 - invite them to a meeting and then ask if they have any additional experiences with injured workers. Ask if they are interested in working together to address the issue of poverty.

- ❖ Meet with local MPPs (WCB Staff, municipal politicians) and share results.

- ❖ ONIWG to consolidate all the survey results (completed by May 15th) and do a media event around June 1st.

Injured Worker Poverty Survey Plan Proposed Timelines

Some steps and timelines for local groups to take to complete a poverty survey.

Phase 1

- Determine the strategy for recruiting injured workers to complete the survey. *February - March 2009*
- Use as an organizing tool – potential to grow your group. *Develop plan - February - March 2009*
- Set a goal of the number of surveys completed. *February - March 2009*
- Plan a strategy for tabulating the surveys: *February - March 2009*
- Get surveys complete. *March – April 2009*
- Do a web based survey as well – *March – April 2009*
- Compile completed surveys – *May 1, 2009*
- Send in totals for each question – *May 1st*
- Send hard copies of the completed surveys – *May 2009*
- Do the analysis – *May 2009*
- Prepare a written report - *May 2009*
- Prepare a consolidated provincial report – *May 2009*
- Do a media release or media conference. *May – June 2009*
- Share with community agencies, unions, etc. *May – October 2009*
- Meet with local MPPs (WCB Staff, municipal politicians) and share results. *May – October 2009*

- ☒ ONIWG to consolidate all the survey results (completed by May 15th) and do a media event around June 1st. *May – June 2009*

Phase 2

- ☒ Determine the strategy for recruiting injured workers to complete the survey. *June 2009*
- ☒ Use as an organizing tool – potential to grow your group. *Develop plan – June - September 2009*
- ☒ Set a goal of the number of surveys completed. *June 2009*
- ☒ Plan a strategy for tabulating the surveys: *June - September 2009*
- ☒ Get surveys complete. *June – November 1 2009*
- ☒ Do a web based survey as well – *June - November 2009*
- ☒ Compile completed surveys – *November 10, 2009*
- ☒ Send in totals for each question – *November 10*
- ☒ Send hard copies of the completed surveys – *November 15 2009*
- ☒ Prepare a written report - *November 2009*
- ☒ Prepare a consolidated provincial report – *November 2009*
- ☒ Do a media release or media conference. *Nov – Dec. – June 2009*
- ☒ Share with community agencies, unions, etc. *Dec. – February 2010*
- ☒ Meet with local MPPs (WCB Staff, municipal politicians) and share results. *Dec – March 2010*

ONIWG to consolidate all the survey results (completed by Nov 15th) and do a media event around Christmas Demo. *Nov – Dec 2009*