

STOP HANDING THE KEYS TO KPMG!!

What: Demonstration against KPMG

Where: KPMG, 333 Bay Street

Who: Injured Workers, Supporters

When: December 23, 2011 at 11 am.

Calling all supporters!!!

Injured workers and their supporters are outraged by the recent KPMG report for the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB). KPMG's report advocates that a successful workers compensation system is one that stops compensating injured workers.

Once again, our government institutions have asked KPMG to recommend devastating changes that will result in poverty and injustice for people across Ontario. This is part of an austerity agenda where services are being cut across the province, while activists and unions resisting are criminalized and corporations get massive tax breaks.

This is no way to treat people who risk their health doing the most dangerous, dirty and deadly jobs in Ontario! The Ministry of Labour and the WSIB must publicly denounce KPMG's recommendations and ensure injured workers are treated with fairness and respect!

More Info:

KPMG was contracted by the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) to provide a Value for Money Audit on Adjudication and Claims Administration. The recommendations came out in October 2011. Since then, David Marchall, the WSIB's President and CEO, has said he will accept KPMG's policy agenda and recommendations.

The KPMG Report:

- strays far outside of its mandate by making recommendations on legislative change and operational policies;
- conflicts with the years of jurisprudence that has developed the foundation of workers' compensation principals and law;
- concludes, quite erroneously, that the quality and consistency of decisions has improved because workers' benefits are being slashed.

Some of KPMG's recommendations are:

- * injured workers who get laid off should be denied compensation,
- * limit compensation to workers with pre-existing conditions, even though a workplace accident can cause a severe and long-term disability,
- * people who get re-injured should have less access to compensation,
- * workers should be forced to apply for CPP-D if they are claiming that they are unable to work,
- * compensation for permanent injuries should be reduced,

- * that travel expenses to medical appointments should be reduced,
- * the WSIB should be able to review compensation indefinitely, thereby leaving injured workers with absolutely no income security.

These recommendations are on top of an austerity agenda evident in every aspect of the WSIB's front-line adjudication, including the following:

- * More workers are being denied initial entitlement for their injuries (11.3% in 2010 versus 7.9% in 2009);
- * workers are being cut off benefits more quickly following injury;
- * New policies limit the amount of retraining available for injured workers. Low-income workers whose employers refuse modified work are being “deemed” able to work in a minimum wage job without any retraining being provided whatsoever;
- * More workers are being told that their ongoing symptoms are not caused by the workplace accident, but instead are caused by alleged "pre-existing, age-related changes".
- * There is a drastic reduction (a 27.6% drop from 2009 to 2010) in the number of injured workers receiving long-term, full compensation because they are unemployable.