

February 6, 2011

Letter to the Editor,

I am writing about the WSIB Funding Review, and the advertisement in the paper last Wednesday, and to encourage folks, especially injured workers, to participate in the consultations coming to Thunder Bay.

There has been much concern that the WSIB system is in financial difficulty. This has led the administration at the WSIB to start a campaign to cut costs wherever they can. As a person with a permanent pension (pre-1990) that can't be cut by administrative edit, I should feel good that my investments are being looked after. But I can't ignore that it is the current injured workers that are being forced to pay the price.

Yes, I, and those like me hurt years ago, have seen our pensions slowly eroded by inflation, over 20% in the last 12 years. But at least we have a pension. Dave Marshall, the CEO of the WSIB, has stated in Parliament that his goal is to reduce the number of injured workers receiving a pension (locked in benefit) by 50 %.

This WSIB Funding Review will make recommendations as to what is a "fair" benefit indexation – the annual adjustment for inflation – that injured workers receive.

As well, this review will look at the system funding, premiums paid and how employers are rated. We think this has become so complex and convoluted that the KISS principle might be the way to go; much like the OHIP system.

The Thunder Bay & District Injured Workers Support Group will be holding a public information meeting about the Funding Review in early March. Call our office at 622-8897 for more details.

If you want to have your say at the public hearing, you must register now – before February 18<sup>th</sup> by phoning Toronto area: 416-344-5930  
Toll-free: 1-800-387-0750 (follow automated prompts then enter 10 digit extension 416-344-5930) and check out the websites  
[www.injuredworkersonline.org](http://www.injuredworkersonline.org) and [wsibfundingreview.ca](http://wsibfundingreview.ca).

Steve Mantis

Thunder Bay & District Injured Workers Support Group

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