

Dimitrios Petropoulos, [REDACTED], Scarborough, Ontario, [REDACTED]

March 22, 2011

COPY

Professor Harry Arthurs
Funding Review
200 Front Street West
Toronto, Ontario M5V 3J1

Dear Professor Arthurs:

I have written many letters to the Workers' Compensation Board and the Government in the last years, on the issue of cost of living for injured workers. I kept copies of these letters. I am sending them to you so you can see that this issue is not new to me, and the other injured workers that signed the letters. Please read these letters. They came from our hearts and from our sad experience after the injury at work.

I am not sure that I can attend you hearings in person. I am now a senior citizen and my health is deteriorating. I hope that you will be a just man. You may not have a disability yourself, I do not know. However, you must hear our concerns, even if you may not be able to share in our pain, which we do not wish you to experience. But you must make your best effort to understand what we are going through.

Here are some things I want to share with you as you read the letters I sent in the past:

- 1) Why should Ontario allow inflation to reduce the value of our workers' compensation? It's like telling a disabled man or woman: "the longer you are disabled, the longer we will reduce your compensation"! That is an insult for a just country like Canada.
- 2) The WCB is not there for their own profit, they not a private company, they are there to support the injured workers. They lost the sense of their purpose. We get promises, but get the cuts in the end. The McGuinty Government and the current WCB administration tell us, to our faces, that the unfunded liability will not be resolved on our backs. But this January, they broke this promise by granting a 0.5% adjustment for inflation, which is a cut no matter how you spin it.
- 3) Our cost of living adjustments were cut back through political schemes. Premier Harris cut them down and then cut down the money employers put into the system. How many times are we going to see the same movie, with the same ending for injured workers?

- 4) We asked the Premier: how would you feel if you were in our shoes? We ask you the same question. How would you feel if the system that was created for your protection (and protection of employers from lawsuits) was punishing you through inflation?
- 5) Professor Arthurs, I am old enough to remember Professor Weiler. In 1990 he said it was wrong for Ontario to say "we will grant this kind of compensation for injured workers" and then reduce the same amount through inflation. This is not rocket science. What was wrong 31 year ago is still wrong today! Please see it, please say it.

Professor Arthurs, our lives are not a bargaining chip. Please make it right.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "D. Petropoulos".

Dimitrios Petropoulos

Dimitrios Petropoulos

~~██████████~~
Scarborough, ON
~~██████████~~

Oct. 14, 2010

Hon. Dalton McGuinty
Premier of Ontario
Room 280, Main Legislature
Queen's Park, Toronto
ON M7A-1A1

Dear Mr. McGuinty,

In 1972, I sustained a workplace injury. Right now, I live on a partial WSIB pension, plus my old age Canada Pension Plan benefits. I am disabled.

I would like to know why you never considered me and other injured workers when you increased the hydro rates, and you've only made those rates cheaper at later times of the day, after 8:00 PM.

Due to my disability, I must go to bed early in the evening, between 8:00 and 8:30 PM. This is as a result of my workplace injury, which I must take medication for daily, and the medication causes fatigue, therefore the need to go to bed early.

You have also failed to consider elderly people in the policy, or young people that work nights. When are

these people going to cook, do laundry, at affordable hydro rates?

You provided the City of Toronto taxing powers that included the \$60.00 vehicle registration fee. Your Province should never allow such policies.

The financial constraints suffered by injured workers, the disabled workers of your Province, under the management of the WSIB policy, plus the day to day costs of living in a McQuinty Ontario, have become overwhelming for people like me.

I look forward to reply on these matters.

Sincerely,

D. Petropoulos

Dimitrios Petropoulos

Theodore Koinis,
[redacted]
Toronto, Ont.
[redacted]

Orlando Buonastella,
815 Danforth Ave, #411
Toronto, Ont.
M4J 1L2

Emma Osso
[redacted]
Whitby, Ont.
[redacted]

September 20, 2004

Honourable Christopher Bentley
Minister of Labour
400 University Avenue
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1T7

Dear Minister Bentley:

We are writing to follow up on our letter to you of July 12th (copy attached).
Would like you to attend one of our meetings to discuss the issues we wrote
about and also to discuss the letter from Injured Workers' Consultants
community legal clinic about whether the Workers' Compensation Board could
afford to adjust benefits for the full impact of inflation next year, as a sign
of good faith while the government is looking into more detailed reforms.

Thank you again for speaking to us on June First - Injured Workers Day. We
hope you will accept our invitation to attend one of our meetings.

Please call: Theodore Koinis at 416-[redacted]
Monica Wright - 416-[redacted]
Emma Osso - 905-[redacted]
IWC - Orlando Buonastella - 416-461-2411

Yours truly,
BRIGHT LIGHTS GROUP

VANTE LERRA

D. Petropoulos E. Markopoulos

[redacted]
Adriano Coimbra

[redacted]
Et. Hichulca

Lately Richardson

[redacted]
Chris Kelpis Zhen Lu

Djamel Sathi

Dalter Moka

Basil Boobis

[redacted]

Adam Kurzoj
[redacted]

Theodore Koinis,
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Orlando Buonastella,
815 Danforth Ave, #411
Toronto, Ont.
M4J 1L2

Emma Osso
[REDACTED]
Whitby, Ont.
[REDACTED]

July 12, 2004

Honorable Christopher Bentley
Minister of Labour
400 University Avenue
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1T7

Dear Minister Bentley:

Thank you for speaking to us on June First - Injured Workers Day. We reviewed your speech and are pleased to offer the following comments.

1. Thank you for increasing the number of inspectors, however this does not help us, the Injured Workers. Injured Workers have experience and should be hired as inspectors. We would like to be involved in an Injured Worker Audit committee of the WCB/WSIB. We have the knowledge!
2. Mr. Minister, you said other governments cut the cost of living. True, but it is your Government that is in power now. It is now your responsibility to solve the problem if your government is sincere. We elected You to make the changes! The way you spoke left No hope for improvement! You said to us "continue your journey." Can we ask you Mr. Minister, when is our Journey going to end? When will you end our poverty?
3. You said the premium base has been eroded. Then you said we need more financial stability at the Board, and we should wait. Why? Why can you not increase premiums by 27% - the gift given to them already? Your government has shown it can take courageous decisions in the past.

If you did this, our journey would be finishing today. Our creditors, supermarkets, landlords, tax departments and financial institutions do not wait. The more Justice is delayed, the more injury, pain and stress and hunger we experience. We should not rely on the welfare system.

You asked us for our support. We have already given it to you. However, we are the ones who are suffering, cannot wait, and need your support and leadership NOW.

We appreciate that you met with us in person. We are inviting you to one of our meetings so we can see you and discuss matters with you in person soon.

Please call: Theodore Koinis at 416-██████████
Monica Wright - 416-██████████
Emma Osso - 905-██████████
IWC - Orlando Buonastella - 416-461-2411

We are sending you a copy of the Supreme Court decision re: The Dignity to Injured Workers.

Yours truly,
BRIGHT LIGHTS GROUP

Paula C...
Pat Vinneman
Anna Bernard
West
Adam King
Walter Mohan
Beryl Brown
Lucy Degannes
INJURED WORKER DAVID FICK
Eugene Leahy
Anna Samouel

DANTE LERRA
Brady Gucker
Jim Aggropoulos
Tommy Manning
Romano Sabatini
BASIK BOOLIS
Autumn Comstock
P. Petropoulos

BRIGHT LIGHTS INJURED WORKERS
c/o ██████████ Rd. Toronto, ON ██████████

April 24, 2002

The Right Honourable Jean Chretien
Prime Minister
Office of the Prime Minister
Government of Canada
80 Wellington St.
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister:

The Bright Lights Injured Worker Group is very interested in your efforts to assist a British born pensioner living in South Africa with her efforts to secure a cost of living index to her pension.

Prime Minister, we share that interest! Since 1994, injured workers of Ontario have had their pensions de-indexed to the cost of living. In fact, this year, we received 0.0% to cover the cost of living. This is a travesty!

This year, your government increased the pensions of persons on CPP disability benefits by 3.5% to offset the cost of living.

While we support the right of all peoples to have fully indexed pensions, should you not make sure that the same happens for all citizens of Canada?

We are a group of injured workers who meet on a monthly basis to discuss changes in legislation, policy and provide support for one another. Our members have been deeply affected by the cuts to their pension.

We urge you to put the same attention to 'injured workers' pensions in Canada as you are to British pensioners. Please inform the Premier of Ontario that he is discriminating against injured workers by refusing to change the legislation that de-indexes our pensions.

Even in these times of relatively low inflation, our pensions are reduced in value by 8% every five years. It is increasingly difficult to make ends meet.

Please advise us of your thoughts on this matter and any action, which you will take. We will be happy to provide further details of our situation if you require this.

Your attention to this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Yours truly,

[Handwritten signatures and names:]

A. Patena
 Peter-Margettas
 THEODOROS KOINIS
 TOM XIANNACOURAS
 Catherine Tolis
 ISRAEL LEMMA
 Panamali Choudhury
 Jaisir Tuma
 Antonio Hauer
 Gerson de Guter
 Kharin
 Constantine Ximos
 Anna Demmerill
 Tomi Hammerill

Contact: Antonio Mauro, [REDACTED], Toronto, Ont. [REDACTED]

Hon. Dalton McGuinty
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Ontario

RE: Injured Workers

Dear Premier McGuinty:

We are a group of injured workers who want to appeal directly to you, Mr. Premier, to seek redress to a number of problems that the Harris Eves Government made worse.

Workers' Compensation was created, as you know, in the distant 1915 in order to give justice to injured workers, who were at the same time denied the right to sue their employer for their injury. There was supposed to be a balance: we could not sue employers, but we were to have timely and just compensation for injury. Harris and Eves forgot this balance. They never mentioned the protection employers had against lawsuits. Instead they demonized injured workers who were considered fraudulent and undeserving. Instead of justice, injured workers received poverty.

If you were an injured worker out of work and with a permanent disability, Mr. Premier, you would feel quite out of place in a compensation system that was created to protect you. You might conclude that the system works well for everyone except you. The past WCB Chair had a 35% increase before the last election and earned \$400,000 a year, and had a luxury apartment paid by the Board. The number of WSIB officials earning more than \$100,000 a year has increased every year since 1995. Employers, already protected from lawsuits, received a 27% reduction in premiums since 1995 and over a billion dollars in rebates in the same period. And what about injured workers in this same period? Injured workers, the sole reason why we have a compensation system, are out of luck. Since 1995 we have lost 16.2% of our benefit value due to inflation. More of us are using food banks. More of us are facing poverty in the midst of the plenty of those who supposedly finance and "manage" our system.

Premier McGuinty, if you were an injured worker you would probably feel insulted and frustrated and want to be attending our demonstrations. You probably would want to write a letter to your Premier to let him know how you feel and appeal to the Leader of this great province to defend the interest of those who helped build Ontario and paid a very heavy price for doing so.

Premier McGuinty, that is why we appeal to you to redress this state of affairs. It is important but not enough to replace the leaders of the Board. We need bread on the table. That is why you need to pass a just and retroactive full cost of living adjustment. We need to end the poverty of injured workers who cannot return to work. We need a

truly independent Appeals Tribunal who is not bound by Board policy but by just legislation. We need a full review of the Act to bring back the very purpose of the Act: to serve injured workers, not the narrow interests of employers, compensation managers and bureaucrats.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Sincerely

~~Brandy Cocher~~
Baril Boalis
J. Acierno
Romano Schlotter
Hedden Colonna
Bobby O'Regan
Adriano Coimbra
Bryant Bozo
J. Marsella
E.H. Michaelides
O'Donnell
Constantininos
Cassella Bruce
Lillian Richardson
Albert Rose
Don Donny
Galt
Nathan Mann

~~Jim~~
Pitopoulos
A. Poulouria
Max Bryant
Kane
Antony
Oliver Gennadi
Judy Howard
P. Patsikevi Patsi
Chris Kelpis
Pete Petruschak
Pete Pappas
G. Pappas
C. THEOCHARIS
D. DIMOPOULOS
Brad Ruddy
Sylvia Clarke
Lucy Degannes
Benandi Choudhey

P.S. WE NEED URGENT ACTION NOW!