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Full name

Mr Richard Renzella

Paste submission

2022 Pre-Budget Consultations Submission
by Richard Renzella, Injured Worker

In regards to the Pre- Budget Consultations, I would just like to briefly make you aware and explain the impact of injured workers on the Ontario Budget, who are denied workers compensation by the WSIB due to their work injury and those injured workers who are receiving WSIB benefits that are not getting enough and force them into poverty.

If injured workers are denied WSIB benefits or don't receive enough WSIB compensation benefits, they are forced to go on Ontario Disability or Welfare, which directly affects the Ontario Budget, as this increase in claims must be passed onto Ontario tax payers by way of a Ontario budget increase.

When an employee gets injured at work and qualifies for WSIB compensation, they receive only 85% of their net earnings for the year they were injured in. The WSIB also deducts a wage rate known as deeming.

The WSIB further cuts injured workers' benefits by "deeming" that is they are receiving wages from "phantom jobs" when in fact they have been unable to find work and Whereas injured workers are often unable to perform the duties of the "deemed" position and Whereas the WSIB's practice of "deeming" ignores the fact that deemed positions often do not exist and forces unemployed injured workers and their families into poverty.

Therefore the change needed, is for the Workplace Safety and Insurance Act (WSIA) to eliminate "deeming" and instead require that an injured worker's benefits to be based on their actual employment status after their injury; this would mean full benefits if the injured worker is unable to work due to their work injury or has not been able to find an appropriate job based on the injury they have sustained. Also, mandate that the WSIB accept the decision of medical doctors when they report an injured worker is unable to work and is injured due to their work injury. This would bring injured workers out of poverty and be less of a burden on taxpayers and the Ontario budget.