



News release

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Canada Celebrates 100 Years of Workers' Compensation - Meredith Principles Remains Relevant a Century Later

Moncton – The New Brunswick Common Front for Social Justice is appearing today before the Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour Committee reviewing the Workers' Compensation Legislation.

The Common Front will make the following recommendations

- 1- The Common Front is **not satisfied with the closed process** used in this review. It prefers an open process which allows a larger participation of citizens, an exchange of knowledge and opens to media so that the public is informed of what is proposed and by whom.
- 2- **WorkSafe NB is in no financial difficulties.** The employers' average rates have been going down for each \$100 of assessable payroll:
\$2, 08 in 2010
\$2, 00 in 2011
\$1, 70 in 2012
\$1, 44 in 2013
a reduction of \$0.64 for each \$100 of assessable payroll, 30.7% reduction in just four years. The rates are the lowest of the Atlantic region (NFL- \$2, 75, NS- \$2, 65, PEI-\$1, 97) and the third lowest in Canada
- 3- It would be important to know if low wage injured workers are falling into poverty. We are asking that the Commission **submit an annual report to the provincial government with the number of injured workers who have received six months of more of compensation and to show if their revenue falls below the poverty line.**

Table 1 gives us a reality check

Table 1 - Single workers in New-Brunswick

Loss of revenue if injured

Annual Gross salary	Wage by hour	Income tax	CPP	E.I.	Annual net salary	Injured : 85 % of net salary	Annual loss of revenue
\$20,800	\$10	\$2,093	\$856	\$391	\$17,460	\$14,841	\$2,619
\$22,880	\$11	\$2,571	\$959	\$430	\$18,920	\$16,082	\$2,838
\$24,960	\$12	\$3,050	\$1,062	\$469	\$20,379	\$17,322	\$3,057

Note : numbers were rounded.

4-Appeal Tribunal- The Appeal tribunal must be **independent, tripartite and impartial**. It must be composed of representative of workers and employers chosen by credible and recognized organizations and not by the Commission.

5-Injured Workers Support Fund. The Common Front is proposing the creation of a Injured Workers Support Fund that would help injured workers get organized and would do independent research on questions essential to injured workers. This Support Fund would be financed by WorkSafe NB and would bring balance to the system where employers and injured workers don't have the same means to bring their issue forward.

For information

Jean-Claude Basque

Provincial Coordinator

875-4232

The Common Front for Social Justice is one of the largest democratic and popular organization in New Brunswick, with close to 75,000 group and individual members. The Common Front brings together individuals as well as local, regional and provincial organizations to work towards the eradication of poverty.

