



PTSD: Petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario

OCTOBER, 2014

Emergency Response Workers and their supporters are lobbying Ontario's provincial government to support a private members bill that would see a significant change to **Workplace Safety and Insurance Act (WSIA)**.

On a daily basis, emergency responders (paramedics, police officers, and firefighters) are subjected to traumatic events and situations while caring for those in critical need. PTSD – post traumatic stress disorder – is not currently recognized as a workplace-related injury, but the toll on first responders can be devastating which is why change is needed now.

NDP MPP Cheri DiNovo's private members' bill would alter the Workplace Safety and Insurance Act to include PTSD as a workplace-related injury unless proven otherwise.

Unifor and the **CUPE** (Canadian Union of Public employees) are supporting this bill and ask you to sign the attached petition demanding that PTSD be recognized as a workplace-related injury and amend the Workers Safety and Insurance Act.

According to the Canadian Mental Health Association, about eight percent of Canadians have PTSD. That number rises to 10 percent when you factor in soldiers returning from combat. However, in emergency service workers like paramedics, fire fighters, nurses and doctors, the number jumps even higher – they are two times more likely than the average citizen to be affected. A 2012 study on Ottawa emergency service workers found that paramedics were at the highest risk of developing PTSD.

Completed petitions should be returned to the Unifor 2002 office as follows:

Unifor 2002 - PTSD petition

7015 Tranmere Drive, Unit 5
Mississauga, ON L5S 1M2

Deadline to return petitions:

November 21, 2014

For more information, please contact: Cheryl Robinson, Unifor 2002 President
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