

# **JUNE 1ST IS INJURED WORKERS DAY**

**Rally at the City Hall Forecourt, 71 Main St W, Hamilton  
(TIME TBD)**

The Hamilton & District Injured Workers Group is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping injured and ill workers and their families obtain their rights to justice, dignity, equality, health & safety, and security.

## **WHAT ARE WE FIGHTING FOR?**

- An end to the age 65 cut-off for benefits
- Fair and timely claim decisions
- Full compensation for injured and ill workers
- Accountability and transparency in the compensation system
- Respect and dignity for all injured workers

## **WHAT IS INJURED WORKERS DAY?**

On June 1, 1983, over three thousand injured workers and allies gathered at the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to fight draft legislation that would have taken away their pensions. So many came that the hearings had to be moved to the grounds of Queen's Park. Their action worked: pensions were saved and soon indexed to inflation. This moment helped cement what we now mark as Injured Workers Day, but it was never just one day. Decades of advocacy by injured workers built this movement, and the fight continues today.

With the passage of Bill 118, Injured Workers Day is now officially recognized in Ontario. This year, we are bringing the movement to Hamilton to stand with injured workers, raise awareness about ongoing challenges, and demand real change for workers across the province.

# WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Established in 1916, Ontario's workers' compensation system was built on principles intended to guarantee support for injured workers and their families for as long as their disability lasts. Over time, however, these principles have been eroded by policies that prioritize cost savings over fair compensation. That erosion is evident today. Today, many injured workers are pushed into poverty, forced to fight for benefits, or cut off entirely despite ongoing disabilities. A system that was meant to protect workers is failing them. Workers face denied claims, delayed benefits, and policies like the age 65 cut-off that ends support despite ongoing disability. Behind every denied claim is a worker struggling to pay rent, a family under stress, or someone forced back to work before they are healed.

## RIGHTS DON'T RETIRE

Our theme for the event this year is RIGHTS DON'T RETIRE. We stand with the *Ontario Network of Injured Workers Group* and the *Injured Workers Community Legal Clinic* to call on the legislative assembly of Ontario to END age discrimination in workers' compensation. To learn more about this campaign, use the QR code at the bottom of the page.

## SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

We invite unions, community organizations, and individuals to stand in solidarity with injured workers by supporting Injured Workers Day in Hamilton. Support can take many forms: sharing information with your members, encouraging attendance, providing banners or speakers, sending a donation, or issuing a statement of solidarity. Your participation strengthens the movement, amplifies injured workers' voices, and helps push for a fair and accountable workers' compensation system.



RIGHTS DON'T RETIRE

