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Press Release

New Brunswick – The Canadian Injured Workers Society would like to offer support to the widely reported case of Tammy Gray in Saint John, New Brunswick. This is a case typical of many cases found in Worker’s Compensation Boards across Canada.

CIWS has members from east to west committed to lobbying for change to the Workers Compensation system in Canada. The CIWS mission statement is - "To promote fair and equitable compensation for injured workers in Canada, to address the mistreatment of injured workers and to voice the common concerns of injured workers across Canada."

“The current system is flawed. The average taxpayer pays more for health care, and income support programs including CPP Disability, Income Assistance, and Child tax benefits – as these programs are forced to provide for Injured workers and their families when compensation does not.” Said CIWS Past –President Beth Nixon from New Brunswick. “Meanwhile the worker injured, through workplace accident or disease, gets fewer benefits and a lower standard of medical care. Often they are even cut off from workplace medical plans and have to pay for expensive prescriptions, aids, and other care out of their own meager funds.”

CIWS feels that if Business had to pay the full costs resulting from injuries and workplace disease, there would be a much lower incidence of workplace injury and disease.

The workers compensation system was started in the early 1900s before there were any safety nets such as Employment Insurance, Canada Pension Plan and even before the Health Care system and Welfare. It started in Ontario and other provinces gradually followed Ontario's lead. Over the last hundred years it has become a patchwork quilt of differing policies and legislation from one province to another. There is however a consistent movement towards not providing benefits for those with long-term injuries, or to provide as few benefits as possible.

Workers compensation boards have failed to do the job they were mandated to do. This is a violation of the Meredith Principles upon which the original workers compensation system was formed.

The Canadian Injured Workers Society is a non-profit organization committed to promoting fair and equitable compensation for injured workers across Canada. For more information about becoming a member please contact : phone 506-432-6340 or removed for archive. The society’s web page is <http://www.ciws.ca>——