



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF PROFESSIONAL & TECHNICAL ENGINEERS AFL-CIO & CLC

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June 9, 2025

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President and Chief Executive Officer
Workplace Safety and Insurance Board
200 Front Street West
Toronto, ON M5V 3J1

RE: Support for Striking OCEU Members – A Call for Justice, Fairness, and Good Faith Negotiation

Dear Mr. Lang,

We write to you on behalf of the more than 90,000 highly skilled workers across North America represented by the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE) and the Society of United Professionals - IFPTE Local 160 here in Ontario. We wish to express our full and unwavering support for the members of the Ontario Compensation Employees Union (OCEU/COPE Local 1750), who are currently on strike at the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB).

These dedicated public servants—professionals and technical workers alike—play an essential role in ensuring the effectiveness, credibility, and humanity of Ontario's workers' compensation system. They are the ones who interact with injured workers and their families, navigate complex cases with empathy and diligence, and ensure that justice and support are not merely promised but delivered. For these efforts, they deserve not just our respect, but a fair collective agreement that reflects the value of their contribution to public service.

It is unacceptable that, in 2025, workers providing such critical services are being asked to absorb real wage losses, increased workloads, and a lack of long-term job protections, all while executive compensation continues to rise and WSIB posts healthy financial reports. The idea that frontline workers—those who have kept the system functioning under intense pressure—should bear the brunt of economic austerity is both short-sighted and profoundly unjust.

The members of OCEU have shown extraordinary patience and professionalism throughout this process. They did not choose to strike, they were locked out. While the Union has tried to bargain in good faith, the employer has responded with months of stagnant negotiations and inadequate offers from WSIB management. These workers are standing up not just for themselves, but for the integrity of the services they provide and for future generations of workers who deserve better conditions than those currently on offer.

As leaders within our union, we know the immense pressure placed on public sector workers when employers prioritize cost-cutting over people. But we also know that progress is always possible—when employers choose collaboration over conflict and respect over rigidity. Mr. Lang, now is the time to demonstrate that WSIB values its workforce not merely in words, but in action.

We urge you to return to the bargaining table immediately, with a renewed commitment to good-faith negotiation. Negotiate with these workers a fair deal—one that includes real wage improvements, secure employment, safe workloads, and a workplace culture that honors their professionalism and dedication. The public is watching, and so are unions across North America. What happens here will set an example for how we treat public servants in times of economic uncertainty.

Until that time comes, IFPTE and the Society of United Professionals - IFPTE Local 160 stand proudly with the striking members of OCEU. We offer our full solidarity and support, and we will continue to amplify their voices until justice is served.

Sincerely,



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