



June 19, 2025

The Honourable David Piccini

Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development
Government of Ontario

The Honourable Caroline Mulroney

President of the Treasury Board
Government of Ontario

Re: Urgent request for meeting on WSIB lock-out and government inaction

Ministers,

As the lock-out at the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) enters its second month, we are demanding an urgent meeting to address your government's role in blocking a resolution and prolonging a crisis that is hurting injured workers, frontline staff, and Ontario businesses.

Over the weekend and into Monday, OCEU/CUPE 1750 engaged in intensive mediated talks in a good-faith effort to end this strike. WSIB refused to table a final and fair offer that would allow workers to decide.

If the employer had confidence in its offer, it would table their best offer which will allow workers to vote. Instead, it continues to halt the process, exposing a deliberate strategy of delay.

Your government is actively interfering with our negotiations despite the fact that WSIB is not taxpayer funded. You prioritized handing out \$4 billion to employers rather than improving the services for workers and are sitting on the sidelines as WSIB needlessly prolongs the lockout.

Minister Piccini, your office has remained silent as the Ministry of Labour allows a critical public service to erode under the weight of political interference. Minister Mulroney, the Treasury Board is directly influencing bargaining mandates behind the scenes, blocking a resolution for reasons that have nothing to do with the tax payers of Ontario, the health of WSIB or the well-being of Ontarians.

Let's be clear: both of you have a direct role to play. The refusal to allow workers to vote, the rejection of compromise, and the attempt to use WSIB to set a pattern for broader public sector bargaining all point to a calculated, direct government agenda - one that uses the injured workers of this province as pawns.

The consequences of dragging this out are real and growing:



- Injured workers are experiencing significant delays in accessing health care and return-to-work services. As a result, claim duration rates are increasing, directly impacting WSIB's funded status.
- WSIB's own leadership has acknowledged growing backlogs and is resorting to operational shortcuts that risk legal challenge.
- A new mental health survey shows WSIB workers reporting anxiety and depression at more than twice the national average.
- Critical business services - from employer registration to claims management - are being disrupted every day.

This crisis was entirely avoidable. Our members have made real sacrifices on wages, workloads, and fairness. They are ready to return to work today. WSIB, however, has refused to improve its offer or table it for a vote.

There is no financial justification for this interference. WSIB is funded by employers, not taxpayers. If this government is truly committed to resolving this dispute, the first step is simple: stop the political interference and let bargaining proceed.

We urge you to meet with us immediately. Each day this continues is a choice — a choice to prolong a lockout that is putting essential public services, injured workers, and Ontario's economy at risk.

We urge you to meet with us now to end this labour disruption.

Sincerely,

Harry Goslin

President

Ontario Compensation Employees Union (OCEU)/CUPE 1750