

MINISTER STATES "A PRESUMPTIVE OPTION" IS STILL ON THE TABLE FOR PETERBOROUGH GE COHORT
WSIB CLAIMS

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Toronto, ON - Today, Ontario Labour Minister Flynn reassured the Occupational & Environmental Health Coalition-Peterborough (OEHCP) that presumptive matrix for possible rebuttable presumption entitlement for sick GE workers, widows of the deceased GE workers and their families.

"There is still hope for presumption. We would have preferred to hear that the background work of Minister Flynn's meetings both at 400 University and at the Legislature would have the presumptive matrix in place to allow presumptive entitlement.," said Co-Chair Marion Burton. "Our workers and families have endured so much already!", she added.

The Minister said he and Ministry staff will come to Peterborough to speak with the community. No date has been set but the OEHCP will pressure for an early December date.

"Our families and workers have asked OEHCP to continue to press the government for more answers regarding criteria to be used as the more complicated claims with multiple exposures are under review," stated OEHCP Co-Chair Heather Brooks-Hill.

The Minister said that he himself would like to see presumptive entitlement and added he would not be the person designing it. However, he added that he would be the one to approve it.

Many family promises were made to GE workers on their death beds. "We will never give-up fighting for justice and closure," reiterated Steve Crossley on behalf of his late-father-in-law Ed Condon within the GE cohort.

Ministry staff reported that WSIB is making good progress in expediting the claims, starting with the ones for which the International Agency for Science Research (IARC) science publications and other resources such as the Unifor retrospective report inform those adjudicated decisions.

OEHCP is pleased to hear of the 24/34 compensated claims and are anxiously awaiting increased transparency regarding the types of cancer claims being compensated beyond the obvious renal/kidney cancers and the hearing loss successes.

Today was OEHCP's 6th meeting with Minister Flynn. The delegation included GE retiree Don McConnell, long-term OEHCP steering committee member and part of the Exposure mapping process, the Condon/Crossley family and other members of the steering committee

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