ONTARIO FEDERATION OF LABOUR

**LAURA WALTON,** President

**AHMAD GAIED,** Secretary-Treasurer

**MICHAEL HAMILTON,** Executive Vice-President

Thursday, August 27, 2026

Mr. Jeffery Lang
President and CEO
Workplace Safety and Insurance Board
200 Front Street West
Toronto, ON M5V 3J1
Jeffery_lang@wsib.on.ca

**Re: Opposition to WSIB Closures and Staff Layoffs**

Dear Mr. Lang,

On behalf of the Ontario Federation of Labour (OFL), representing 54 unions and over 1 million workers in Ontario, we write you to express our disappointment and opposition to the WSIB's plan to close regional offices, most notably in Northern Ontario and the layoff of close to 500 staff.

This decision reflects a clear lack of consideration for workers and their communities. An organization that provided over $21.5 billion in rebates to employers (since 2018) should not require to cut staffing and cut costs through the closure of offices. WSIB has yet to demonstrate why a system, entirely funded by employer premiums to provide an integral service to injured workers, would require mass layoffs and office closures. There has been no indication how service levels will be maintained.

The callous disregard for workers displayed by the board cannot go unchecked. WSIB's own internal information, reports of chronic understaffing and job-related anxiety among your staff being twice the national average. Rather than addressing these issues, it appears the decision is to further exacerbate the issue.

It is unclear to us why, during the same month that the Ford government announced investments to "protect workers in the North" and support local jobs and economic resilience[1], you would seek permission from the Treasury board to close every office in Northern Ontario. This leaves Northern WSIB workers without jobs, their families in economic uncertainty, and countless injured workers and employers throughout having their supports and services delayed or disrupted.

[1] https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1007801/ontario-and-canada-invest-more-than-72-million-to-protect-workers-in-the-north

In the face of further economic turbulence from tariff threats and against the direction of Ford government to "Buy Ontario"[2], you are maintaining contracts with American-based corporations through Better Up and Iron Mountain, rather than bringing the work back in-house.

The Ontario Federation of Labour stands with all workers. We are aware that many of our affiliates and partners have already submitted letters of opposition to the decision and have asked that the decision to be remedied immediately. We join their demands for action.

1. Immediately halt the planned regional office closures and layoffs;
2. Release a full and transparent rationale for the proposed restructuring, including the financial, staffing and service-level analysis used to support the decision;
3. Provide a detailed impact assessment addressing injured workers, employers, Northern and remote communities, claims adjudication, return-to-work service and remaining WSIB staff; and
4. Commit to meaningful consultation with labour, employers, affected communities and other stakeholders before any restructuring proceeds.

We will not stand by and watch an institution built to be "The Great Compromise" be compromised by demoralizing and devasting decisions of the WSIB board. Workers must be engaged in any decisions of this nature and the OFL, as the provincial labour body, demands that this engagement occur as soon as possible.

We request a substantive response to the concerns above by Friday, September 4, 2026. We further request a meeting with you and WSIB board members with OFL representatives as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

**LAURA WALTON**
OFL President

LW/nb/COPE343

C: Hon. Doug Ford – Premier of Ontario
Minister David Piccini
Ontario Federation of Labour Executive Board
Harry Goslin, President, OCEU

[2] https://fordmpp.ca/buy-ontario-to-support-ontario-workers/