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Mr Chairman and committee members you are to be commended for the task ahead of you. A review of the legislation, policies and regulations is long over due. Like all matters dealing with a work-force it must be upgraded to meet modern day realism's.

First, we will inform you of who we are and you will find that out in attachment one.

We will then deal with what we think is relative to retirement and a few shortfalls by the legislation, policies and regulations.

The present system does not take what we consider a "remain in poverty", in retirement. What happens now is for the workers compensation board to neglect the employees pension on reaching retirement and let the rules of ones pension plan calculate his benefit. Not taking into account that the injury at work and the time lost is not considered time for calculating the pension plan time off work as time worked. The fact that the injury happened at work resulting in the time lost is forgotten and neglected. This results in a lower pension benefit cheating the injured worker twice once with an injury the second time at retirement when it is time to use the best five year time to determine or calculate the pension benefit amount.

This means a loss for ones higher pension benefit for the rest or remainder of ones life, the amount varies. We recommend that this be reviewed with a view that this shortfall be paid by and through the workers compensation board by what we would refer to as a "pension adjustment fund". This may mean a higher employer rate of pay or premium for the WCB. This type of shortfall on the injured worker also means that ones Canada Pension Plan (CPP) benefit is reduced for one's life as the federal government considers the time off work and not contributing to the CPP. The time is not in line to be considered as a drop out provision as a woman is to raise a child. While this drop out provision is now (we believe covering the man in the family) the injured worker is forgotten. We recommend that you correct this as well by the same means as above or another means.

As you know while we were on the job we insisted the list of workers covered by the workers compensation legislation. The present leadership in the labour movement is no different it also wants a review. It is our position that time has changed it needs a review. Farming has changed as has the machines at work for those that are not covered. We have a whole new environmental scene in the

workplace. The invisible danger in the workplace is real and those workers in harms way must be given a chance. I am sure the active work force will have a list of amendments give them the attention they deserve we do not want to revert back to the courts. Employers will get injured financially and so will the worker.

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President
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