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Good afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen, My name is xxx and I would like to talk about one aspect of the workers compensation, that in my opinion, needs more work.

I realise that with all the false claims going on it is hard to spot the real thing, especially if there is no actual date of injury. In such a case I believe that the workers compensation board, should get more information on the claimant, to find out what kind of person they are dealing with. If they are community minded and do lots of volunteer work, they are willing to do something for nothing. There are honest people out there, people who really do care about doing a proper job, and people who fall through the cracks in legislation. Not all people are out to milk the system. Some people just want to be able to provide for their family, and be able to do a meaningful job.

Certain injuries never go away because of the nature of the injury. In these cases a person should be given the opportunity to retrain for a job that is within their ability.

After a company is no longer willing to provide alternate work for an individual who has been injured, they are let go. The person is then able to go on disability unemployed insurance, then when that runs out they are able to go on regular unemployed insurance. Of course to do this the person in question has lots of restrictions, on the type of work they are able to do. They go to different agencies looking for someone to help them. But are unable to get help because they don't have a paper saying that they are disabled.

They apply for jobs all over and find that no one is willing to hire them because of their inability to do many tasks. They go to HRDC and are told that they can only help them if they are able to do certain jobs. The person finds out about a place that is willing to train them and they can get certified on the job. A dream come true after all that searching. The person goes and applies for this job and is called back the next day for an interview. But there is a catch, the person needs a wellness certificate from their Doctor, in able to work at this place. The person goes to their Doctor and gets checked out and requests a wellness certificate, and is told that the Doctor will not give them the *certificate*, because of their injury. This person finally finds a agency that is willing to hire them and overlook some of their inabilities, but not all of them. The job is only part time as there is no other work this person is trained to do. And they cannot afford to take schooling, for something else, as they don't have the money. This person applies

for the same job at different agencies, looking for another part time job, only to be told that because of their restrictions they will not hire them. It is all very frustrating.

The person takes it upon themselves to see a specialist in Winnipeg. They fill out a four page questionnaire with all of the doctors they have seen on the front, treatments they have had, physiotherapy, acupuncture, ultra sound, massage, chiropractic treatments, and medication in the middle pages, and any accidents they have had on the last page, a car accident in which injuries occurred and a settlement was paid out 10 years before. The specialist spends 10 minutes with the person and suggests acupuncture and physiotherapy. He then tells the person that they should just think of what they can do and not dwell on what they cannot do, and washes his hands of the whole thing. He doesn't even look at the report, other than to notice that the person had already seen one of his colleagues, and that the person received settlement money years before, suggesting to him that this person is after money. He then suggested treatments that the person had already had, because he didn't read the pages, and if he did he only saw what he wanted to see.

The person is told by WCB that their injuries are no longer work related, because they have not done the work for two years. These injuries were such, that everyday living keeps them from getting better. The person was injured in the workplace, but does not qualify for any help, because the Doctors, cannot agree and the WCB doesn't have time for people with injuries that are hard to diagnose. The WCB doctors are concerned about the persons weight gain, making this person feel terrible, they should realise that lifestyle affects a persons weight. This persons life style has changed dramatically, from being active in sports, fitness, had their own home based business. They can no longer do these things. They cannot find fulltime work. And feel that the system has let them down.

I do not know the solution for this problem. I only know that it exists. If anyone has any ideas I would love to hear them. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak to you today.