

USJE is urging the federal government to ensure there is proactive, inclusive presumptive injury legislation that recognizes the difficult work undertaken by thousands of federal public service employees who are working under the auspices of the Ministries of Public Safety, Justice and the Attorney General.

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PTSlatWork.ca



About the Union of Safety and Justice Employees

Protecting the public safety of 38 million Canadians is the Union of Safety and Justice Employees' number one priority. USJE represents nearly 18,000 federal public safety and justice employees including federal parole and program officers, teachers, food service officers, maintenance and front-line staff who work inside and outside Canada's extensive federal prison system. USJE members also support the day-to-day operations of over 700 RCMP detachments to prevent crime, enforce the law, investigate offences and assist Canadians in emergencies.

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Presumptive Injury and the Frontline

Workplace injuries & mental health

There is a growing recognition that workplaces can be a direct cause of post traumatic stress injuries (PTSI).

It is generally harder to prove that a mental illness is a result of a workplace injury, because there are so many factors involved. Burnout, unmanageable workloads, lack of support and resources, as well as harassment, among other things, can all contribute to mental health challenges and eventual illness.

What is presumptive injury?

Presumptive injury refers to an injury that is presumed to have resulted from a situation at a workplace or conditions of work. Certain frontline employees, such as first responders, are presumed to be vulnerable to occupational stress

injuries, and when such injuries are diagnosed by a qualified professional, their eligibility for Workers' Compensation is undeniable.

However, there are many employees that may be exposed to workplace trauma who are not included in presumptive injury definitions. These include people who work in the federal correctional system and the Ministry of Justice, as well as employees who provide crucial operational support to the RCMP.

The Union of Safety and Justice Employees (USJE), which represents nearly 18,000 federal employees who work in public safety and justice, is seeking to change workers' compensation legislation in Canada—so that ALL trauma-injured workers have access to the compensation they need and deserve.

Current legislation

Presumptive injury legislation varies across the country, and in many jurisdictions it applies only to a narrow group of employees, such as firefighters, paramedics, police and some emergency responders.

In the last five years, six provinces have passed legislation that makes a direct link between certain psychological disorders and workplace trauma. Under most of these laws, certain workers diagnosed with occupational stress injuries will be able to claim workers' compensation benefits without having to prove that their illness was caused by their workplace.

Only in Manitoba & Saskatchewan are ALL workers covered by this legislation; in other provinces and territories, only some first responders are covered, and in others there is no presumptive coverage for mental health injuries.

