



Jagmeet Singh

MPP Bramalea-Gore-Malton



NDP Critic Jagmeet Singh calls for the Consumer Services Minister and Attorney General to Enforce the Consumer Protection Act on Unfair Business Practices for Self-Insured Disability Insurance

Queen's Park – Bramalea-Gore-Malton MPP and NDP Consumer Services and Attorney General Critic Jagmeet Singh is calling on the Ontario Government to enforce the Ontario Consumer Protection Act on the unfair business practices and misrepresentations for self-insured disability insurance services supplied by Ontario corporations and insurers.

The place to start this crack-down is on the misrepresentations made by Nortel and Sun Life to the employees of Nortel, which have resulted in 360 Nortel disabled former employees and their 120 dependent children being pushed into poverty because of the failure of their disability insurance. Nortel and Sun Life provided documentation that had Nortel employees reasonably believe they were covered by disability insurance supplied by an insurer. Had they known Nortel was self-insuring without making their required cash contributions, and would wrongfully take insurance reserve assets out of their Health and Welfare Trust, they would have bought personal disability insurance from a licensed carrier.

“This is a question of protecting the lives of our most vulnerable Canadians, who become unable to work due to genetic disease or serious accident. The Consumer Services Minister and Attorney General lawyers cannot make their own interpretation that employees buying services at work are not consumers making consumer transactions. The government needs to enforce its laws on their plain English terms,” said Singh. “How many more disabled persons need to suffer the trauma of lost income from misrepresented disability insurance in the workplace” he asked.

“The Ontario Government has helped the Nortel pensioners with top up pension guaranties, but has harmed the Nortel disabled by supporting the March 2010 Nortel settlement. This settlement lacked informed consent from the Nortel disabled group with no vote and the evidence of unfair business practices and misrepresentations not released until five months after the settlement's approval.” added Singh.

Jagmeet Singh asks the Minister of Consumer Affairs to use her powers under the Ontario Consumer Protection Act to enforce its provisions for unfair business practices and false, misleading or deceptive representations, and to seek a court restitution order for the damages to the Nortel disabled former employees caused by these offences.

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