

Re: Independant Review Of Whscc

Hello; I am an injured worker, still trying to get help with permanent disabilities. I was told I suffer from Repetitive Strain Injuries. My Doctor has not released me to work. Whscc has deemed me able to work 40 hours a week. My injuries are with my neck, scapula area, wrists, shoulders, arms and hands. Whscc believed I could go back to my trade of 18 years as a hairstylist. My Doctor as well as my surgeon agreed this would not be safe for me. There was no accomodation with my employer. This company is a chain owned by a company from United States. I felt that my injuries have been made lite of by my CaseManager and whscc. I went through Vocational Rehabilitation with whscc's rehabilitation specialist. This process was one of the worst experiences of my life other than the injuries I've been battling with for the past 3 years. I was told by the vocational rehabilitation specialists that I would be safe to work at a call centre. I knew this wasn't possible, with severe carpal tunnel syndromne bilaterally. I asked my doctor about a referral to a plastic surgeon. It was decided after seeing the surgeon I would have cts surgery. In the mean time whscc said that I could work, and go to physio. After surgeries I was admitted to whscc's pain clinic in Moncton. This program seemed to be more helpful. I didn't feel like I was being pushed. Unfortunately, it was and still is a struggle to accept that I may be left like this, with permanent disabilities. Even functioning at home at present is difficult. After being discharged from the pain clinic, I was to have a functional capacity evaluation at Grand Bay Worker's Rehabilitation Centre. The first day of the assesment I had some added pain. Day two of the evaluation was awful, the evaluator was well aware that my pain was getting a lot worse. At lunch time I had her hook me up to my tens machine, and I laid in my car trying to dull the pain in my neck and scapula area. After lunch I told her that my pain was getting alot worse. We carried on with more of the evaluation and as a result of the pain increasing, she walked me to the water cooler to get some water to take muscle relaxers to help with increased pain levels. By early afternoon I was told the evaluation was over and I could go home. I told her although the muscle relaxers helped with some of the pain I didn't feel safe to drive and that I would go across the street to get a coffee to try and make myself more alert. The Day after evaluations, and for the next month my pain was out of control. I just couldn't function. I made arrangements for a friend to drive me back to the pain clinic where I could get some more help. At this time medications were increased. I was told by my family doctor to stay quiet and rest. In the meantime whscc's vocational rehabilitation specialist told me she wanted to set up an appointment to get moving forward. I told her what had happened. It fell on deaf ears because she insisted on making an appointment anyway. So I went with my sister to this meeting. I was told by the vocational rehab specialist that whscc's medial advisor said that there would be no long term disabilty for me as he said although my condition would not get better that I would remain the same. My family doctor said that whscc should be putting me on a long term disability pension. I have been deemed as able to work a 40 hour week as a sales clerk. I am presently on a Physiatrists caseload. I have been approved for physical therapy which whscc is paying. I have started a new medication for burning nerve pain. I am waiting for an mri appointment that the Physiatrist has ordered. I was cut off of benefits the first of March, 2007. The doctor is still trying to get me help with pain and disabilities. I am appealing whscc's decision with the help of a worker's advocate. I was truly hoping to be

helped but instead it's more important to get me off the system rather than to work with my doctor in getting more help. My doctor has recommended a CPP disability as WHSCC just wants to be finished with my case. Honestly I feel very used and abandoned by this system. I truly believed they were there to help me.

Thank you for trying to fix a system that has gone wrong, for the injured worker.

If you would like to contact me further, for any other information, please feel free to do so.

Sincerely,

An Injured Worker