



The Canadian Institute of Workplace Harassment and Violence

workplaceharassment.ca

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 12, 2025

Canadian Institute of Workplace Harassment and Violence Condemns Federal Inaction on Psychological Safety in the Workplace

Toronto, ON — The [Canadian Institute of Workplace Harassment and Violence](http://workplaceharassment.ca) (CIWHV) is condemning the federal Liberal government for refusing to take workplace psychological harassment seriously, despite years of advocacy.

After more than three years of outreach, [CIWHV](http://workplaceharassment.ca) has encountered a troubling pattern of delay, dismissal, and disregard across multiple ministerial offices, most recently under [Minister of Jobs and Families Patty Hajdu](#) and her policy advisor, Amen Ben Ahmouda.

Since 2022, the [CIWHV](http://workplaceharassment.ca) has engaged with federal officials at the following ministries:

- **Office of the Minister of Labour and Minister for Seniors** (Policy Advisor Felipe Alfaro)
- **Office of the Minister of Employment, Workforce Development & Labour** (Director of Policy & Labour Relations Noémie Fiset-Tremblay)
- **Office of the Minister of Jobs and Families** (Policy Advisor Amen Ben Ahmouda)

At the most recent meeting on August 25, 2025, with Amen Ben Ahmouda from Minister Hajdu's office, survivors and experts faced what they felt were dismissive behaviour and minimization. Federal representatives turned cameras on and off, appeared distracted, and at times openly disregarded testimony, including dismissing the lived experience of an RCMP survivor by claiming that the RCMP "is not part of the federal government."

"This is exactly the problem," says Linda Crockett, Founder and Chair of CIWHV. "When senior officials minimize, deflect, or dismiss survivors, they perpetuate the same tactics of bullying we are fighting against. This government's response has been symbolic of the problem itself: denial, avoidance, and disregard."

Workplace harassment and violence impacts **over 70% of employees in Canada**.

According to a [study](#) conducted by researchers at Western University, the University of Toronto, and the Canadian Labour Congress, [71.4 per cent of workers have experienced at least one form of harassment and abuse in their workplace last year](#).

The [study](#) also found that 88% of workers who experienced harassment and violence or sexual harassment and violence were [“transferred, suspended, fired, or lost a shift” due to the harassment and violence.](#)

The human toll includes anxiety, depression, family breakdown, and suicide. The economic toll exceeds **\$50 billion annually**.

CIWHV is calling on Minister Hajdu to:

- Officially recognize **Psychological Safety Awareness Week**
- Treat psychological harm as seriously as physical workplace injury
- Commit to respectful, survivor-centered dialogue

Call to Action

Enough delay. Survivors cannot wait. Email patty.hajdu@parl.gc.ca and amen.benahmouda@hrsdcc-rhdcc.gc.ca today and demand recognition of Psychological Safety Awareness Week.

About the Canadian Institute of Workplace Harassment and Violence (CIWHV):

The Canadian Institute of Workplace Harassment and Violence is a national not-for-profit organization (currently applying for charity status) that provides funding and guidance to employees in financial distress due to workplace psychological harm, including harassment, racism, discrimination, and bullying. We assist harmed workers in accessing the health and legal support they need through education, funding options, and systems navigation. Our goal is to empower employees to exercise their legal rights, prevent further harm, and support their recovery.

Beyond supporting individuals, we are committed to driving positive systemic change so that all Canadian employees have equal access to adequate services and protections. By helping workers assert their rights and access the resources they deserve, we contribute to creating accountability and influencing much-needed changes in legislation. This is how we foster safer, healthier workplaces across Canada.

For media inquiries, please contact:

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