## PETITION to improve workplace health and safety in the mental health sector

## TO the Legislative Assembly of Ontario

WHEREAS workers in the mental health sector across Ontario are facing increasing exposure to violence, and frontline workers and their unions continue to report that many employers are not doing enough to control workplace violence; and

WHEREAS workers have the right to be safe at work and to be free from violence while doing their jobs, and no one should go to work feeling afraid for their well-being or for their life;

## We the undersigned petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to:

- 1. provide the necessary funding to ensure mandatory staffing levels of all workers in the mental health care sector, both for safety and improved patient care;
- 2. implement the system-wide use of the *Violence, Aggression and Response Behaviours Tools (VARB)* for assessing security, flagging systems, conduct organizational risk assessments and assess individual client behaviour, with the goal of identifying gaps in anti-violence program measures and procedures.
- 3. provide the necessary funding to fill the gaps identified through organizational risk assessments, including, but not limited to, self-defense training for all staff.
- 4. amend the *Workplace Safety and Insurance Act* to include health care workers under the presumptive legislation with respect to post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).
- 5. Bring back the WSIB's Workwell Audit to ensure employers' compliance with the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*.

Name (print)	Address with postal code	Signature	