

## **Don't Write Me Off**

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\* Beryl is a Toronto-based poet devoted to supporting injured workers and fighting for reform. She founded the Justice Singers choir of injured workers and is a member of the Bright Lights Injured and the Women of Inspiration Injured Workers groups. Beryl also serves on the Board of Directors of Injured Work Consultants Legal Clinic and is an Executive Member of the Ontario Network of Injured Workers Group. She was a member of The Injured Worker History Project - part of the Research Action Alliance on the Consequences of Work Injury - and worked on the Organizing Committee of the 2013 conference to mark 100 years of the Meredith Principles.

Don't Write Me Off

You think there is no good in me and I am just a responsibility

You think that I shouldn't be a professional

You think it is ok to judge me, you don't even know me.

Don't write me off; give me a chance

I'm alive not yet dead. Just a chance can make a difference

Will you give me a chance?

Don't crush my desire to flourish; I have substance, likewise,

Others will see. You don't have to love me

You don't have to be my friend but everyone should be treated fairly.

Would you like to be treated the way you treat me?

Look into your conscience; I am a person, a hand-made of God

Do you sleep at nights then go about your daily business Justified?

Whatever you do will come back to you, perhaps not today

Perhaps not tomorrow but sometime in the future

You will see whatsoever you sow you will surely reap.

You deprive me of my food

You deprive me of good health

You deprive me of a family, I hold dear

You deprive me of a good future, I prepared for

You withhold compassion from me

I shouldn't beg for alms that is rightfully mine

I shouldn't be in this position.

I wish you would understand the impact of your mocking indelible pen

Remember what I say to you; don't write me off as dead.