



Message Box on Bill C-525 July, 2013

These Talking Points are intended for use in responding in the public and in the media to Bill C-525 - a private members' bill introduced by Wetaskewin MP Blaine Calkins in June 2013 to change the rules governing certification and decertification governed by the Canada Labour Code, Parliamentary Employment and Staff Relations Act and the Public Service Labour Relations Act. This information is divided into: 1) Overall Message; 2) Important Talking Points supporting the overall message. They may also be used in any advocacy efforts on the bill.

OVERALL MESSAGE

“If the Conservatives pass Private Member's Bill C-525 then joining a union would be made almost impossible for workers. Bill C-525 would demand that workers gain more support than even Prime Minister Stephen Harper got in his Calgary riding in the last election. That's unfair and hypocritical.”

“The Conservatives are tinkering with a labour relations system that has worked well for decades, that even employer groups have not asked be changed.”

“Putting up impossible barriers for workers to join a union is unfair and shows the Conservatives' true colours.”

Important Talking Points

"Proposed Conservative rules under Bill C-525 would make it nearly impossible for workers to join a union. It would consider workers who don't even bother to vote as casting "no" ballots on having a union. That's not democratic and if those rules applied to electing MPs, Parliament would be empty. One set of rules for Conservatives and a different set for workers - that's unfair and hypocritical."

“Bill C-525 would effectively end the workers’ democratic right to join a federal union because new rules would demand they gain more support than even Prime Minister Stephen Harper got in his Calgary riding in the last election! That’s unfair and hypocritical.”

“Federal Members of Parliament are elected if they get the most votes of those who participate in an election, not even a majority of those votes. But under Bill C-525, workers would be forced to get a majority of votes of all employees in the workplace – not just of those who vote – to join a union. That’s unfair and hypocritical.”

“Bill C-525 is unfair Conservative government interference in matters solely to be decided by employees in the workplace, in a system that works well and even employers have not complained about!”



"The Canada Labour Code governs key industries – transportation, communications, banking – that are essential to the economic well-being of Canada. Its system of labour relations has stood the test of time, with employers, unions and the government working together to make sure changes to the labour code have broad support. Backbenchers with no experience in labour relations should not be tinkering with a system that is the backbone of labour relations in Canada's key economic industries."

"Bill C-525 would politicize the Canada Labour Code and other federal legislation and promote confrontation instead of cooperation between unions, employers and the federal government. That's unfair and counterproductive."

"Why is significant legislation called Bill C-525 – that would make federal union certification dramatically harder – being introduced without any consultation, by an Alberta Conservative MP [Blaine Calkins – Wetaskiwin] with no experience in labour relations? That's unfair and confrontational."

"Bill C-525 would penalize workers with radical changes to the federal union certification and decertification rules, yet it's proposed by a backbench Conservative MP, not the Labour Minister, and not with due process. That's unfair and inappropriate."