



INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS
FRATERNITÉ INTERNATIONALE DES OUVRIERS EN ÉLECTRICITÉ



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November 13, 2013

TO ALL IBEW FIRST DISTRICT LOCAL UNIONS

Greetings:

RE: Private Members Bill C-525 (Employee Voting Rights Act)

On Thursday October 29th, 2013 Conservative Party Member of Parliament (MP) for Wetaskiwin, Blaine Calkins read his Private Members Bill C-525 for the first hour of debate of the bill's second reading. Below is a quote from Mr. Calkins during which he explains the need for his bill; for his full comments please refer to the Hansard:

"I have heard from constituents all over my riding and across Canada about concerns that workers have when it comes to their union's representation. They feel confined and they speak of intimidation from their own union and its organizers."

We cannot let politicians continue to spread these outrageous claims without hearing from us. The process outlined for decertification in this bill is unprecedented in Canada and is not the same as any of our provincial labour legislation across the country, despite what this member claims. The bill does have some similar traits to recent labour law changes in Saskatchewan but goes beyond what that government passed in their labour law reforms.

This legislation seeks to implement the highest requirements to form a union in this country. The fact that ballots not cast, count as no votes completely undermines democracy, something that Canadians who came before us made the ultimate sacrifice for.

Bill C-525 will lead to increased opportunity for intimidation from the employer, which in this case is either the government or the corporation in a federally regulated sector and will affect thousands of IBEW members across Canada.

Please find a list of MP's that should be contacted and encouraged to vote against this undemocratic piece of legislation. Your MP should be back in their riding this week (November 10-16th) as the House of Commons will not be sitting during that time. I encourage you and your members to set up meetings with your MP next week to discuss this bill.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

In solidarity,

Bill Daniels
International Vice President

BD/mw

cc: 1st District Representatives
System Council #11
CCO
NPAC

