



June 26, 2013

File: 20105-04

To: Members of the CLC Canadian Council

Re: Important Update on Bill C-377

Greetings,

Moments ago, the Senate voted to amend Bill C-377 and send the amended bill back to the House of Commons.

The amendments that passed were proposed by Conservative Senator Hugh Segal. Those amendments are as follows:

- Raise the threshold for separate itemization of transactions for a particular payee from \$5,000 to \$150,000. The effect would be to exclude the transactions of most small and medium-sized unions.
- Raise the salary reporting threshold from \$100,000 to \$441,661. This is a direct reflection of the Conservative government's change to Brent Rathgeber's private member's bill C-461 to allow public reporting of federal officials' salaries over \$444,000 a year.
- Exempt branches and locals from the scope of the legislation, exempt unions with less than 50,000 members, and exempt labour trusts with less than 50,000 members. It is unclear by this amendment if parent unions would have to report on behalf of their locals.
- Specifies that expenses covered by solicitor-client privilege is exempt from reporting.

A bill that has been passed by the House of Commons and is amended in the Senate must return to the House of Commons for a final vote. As a result, Bill C-377 will return to the House of Commons for a vote sometime after the House resumes in September.

The role of the Senate is the house of sober second thought. The Senate Banking Committee was not comfortable with Bill C-377, providing



observations in their report to the Senate that the bill was poorly constructed, that they heard from a wide range of witnesses including provinces that the bill was likely unconstitutional and it violated the spirit of personal privacy laws.

But for partisan politics, this vote would have failed in the Senate and Bill C-377 defeated. Its passage has, however, been delayed by these amendments, and it reflects that Conservative Senators were not comfortable with the marching orders they received from the Prime Minister's Office and the Leader of the Government in the Senate Marjory LeBreton.

We will keep you informed on new developments as they occur.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ken Georgetti', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Ken Georgetti
President

cc: CLC Officers and Assistants
National and Regional Directors