

## **Reintroduction of Bill C-377**

### **Summary of our Arguments**

- This legislation unfairly singles out trades unions and imposes unprecedented reporting requirements;
- We ask why this legislation is to apply only to trade unions and not also apply to corporations, rotary clubs, the Fraser Institute and the Canadian LabourWatch Association, all of which receive tax credits from government;
- The regulation of labour law, including governance of trade unions, is an area of provincial jurisdiction. It is our view that the proposed legislation will unduly interfere with the internal administration and operation of unions;
- The legislation raises questions regarding the disclosure of detailed financial information, including salaries, contracts, loans, investments, and spending on organizing, collective bargaining, education and training;
- The Bill would also require the reporting of pension and medical benefit information, and therefore the disclosure of members' sensitive personal medical and financial information. We believe that the internal administration of a union is a matter between the union and its members and not the general public;
- The poll used to argue there is wide public support for the Bill has come under much scrutiny, and in fact did not give an accurate picture about public attitudes on disclosure of union spending practices;
- The relationship between unions and their members is built on transparency and accountability. Local leadership is democratically elected, and union members decide how their dues are spent. The members approve budgets, and audited statements are readily available to members for approval. Unions are democracy in action. Each member has a voice. Each member has a vote.
- We have gone through these hearings before; amendments demonstrating the Bill was flawed have been introduced and have been dismissed. It is unconscionable that this Bill has been reintroduced with no mention of previous amendments or commentary from previous hearings;
- We believe appropriate amendments to this legislation be put in place before it moves forward, or defeat the Bill altogether.