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July 2, 2015

TO ALL IBEW FIRST DISTRICT LOCAL UNIONS

RE: Private Members Bill C-377

Greetings:

Private Members Bill C-377, *An Act to amend the Income Tax Act (requirements for labour organizations)* was passed in the Senate on Tuesday, June 30th, 2015 by a final vote of 35-22, with one abstention. This was a long hard-fought piece of legislation, and I would like to thank each and every member that participated in our lobby efforts; whether they contacted their MP while the bill was in the House of Commons, or contacting Senators from their province to express their discontent with this union-busting bill. Fact is, the lobbying efforts of IBEW members from across the country were heard by politicians of all party stripes and in both chambers of parliament. While the final result was not one that we desired, our efforts should be commended.

This legislation has been flawed from the day it was drafted; however, with the un-wavering support it had from the Prime Minister’s Office, we knew we had an uphill battle from the outset. Bill C-377 was first introduced almost four years ago, October 2011.

The Conservatives used their majority in the House of Commons to shut down debate in Committee hearings and in the House in order to ram the bill through before the Christmas break of 2012. It was such a priority that less than twelve hours after passing in the House of Commons, it was sponsored and introduced for first reading in the Senate.

In June of 2013, it appeared that we had scored a small victory with Senators passing amendments put forward by Conservative Senator Hugh Segal; however those were quickly nullified by the Prime Minister’s decision to prorogue parliament, which essentially reset the bill back to its original form, and back to first reading in the Senate.

Below you will find the results from Hansard of the final vote in the Senate on the bill, along with the Senator’s name and home province. I would encourage you to share this information with our membership.

YEAS (voting to pass Bill C-377 in its original form)

Last Name	Party	Province	Last Name	Party	Province
Ataullahjan	Conservative	Ontario	McIntyre	Conservative	New Brunswick
Batters	Conservative	Saskatchewan	Mockler	Conservative	New Brunswick
Beyak	Conservative	Ontario	Ngo	Conservative	Ontario
Carignan	Conservative	Quebec	Oh	Conservative	Ontario
Dagenais	Conservative	Quebec	Patterson	Conservative	Nunavut
Eaton	Conservative	Ontario	Plett	Conservative	Manitoba



Enverga	Conservative	Ontario	Poirier	Conservative	New Brunswick
Frum	Conservative	Ontario	Raine	Conservative	British Columbia
Gerstein	Conservative	Ontario	Runciman	Conservative	Ontario
Greene	Conservative	Nova Scotia	Seidman	Conservative	Quebec
Lang	Conservative	Yukon	Smith (<i>Saurel</i>)	Conservative	Quebec
LeBreton	Conservative	Ontario	Stewart Olsen	Conservative	New Brunswick
MacDonald	Conservative	Nova Scotia	Tannas	Conservative	Alberta
Maltais	Conservative	Quebec	Tkachuk	Conservative	Saskatchewan
Manning	Conservative	Newfoundland and Labrador	Unger	Conservative	Alberta
Marshall	Conservative	Newfoundland and Labrador	Wells	Conservative	Newfoundland and Labrador
Martin	Conservative	British Columbia	White	Conservative	Ontario
McInnis	Conservative	Nova Scotia			

NAYS (voting NOT to pass Bill C-377)

Last Name	Party	Province	Last Name	Party	Province
Baker	Liberal	Newfoundland and Labrador	Jaffer	Liberal	British Columbia
<i>Bellemare</i>	<i>Conservative</i>	<i>Quebec</i>	Joyal	Liberal	Quebec
Campbell	Liberal	British Columbia	Kenny	Liberal	Ontario
<i>Cools</i>	<i>Independent</i>	<i>Ontario</i>	Lovelace Nicholas	Liberal	New Brunswick
Cordy	Liberal	Nova Scotia	<i>McCoy</i>	<i>Independent/Progressive Cons</i>	<i>Alberta</i>
Cowan	Liberal	Nova Scotia	Merchant	Liberal	Saskatchewan
Day	Liberal	New Brunswick	Mitchell	Liberal	Alberta
Downe	Liberal	Prince Edward Island	Moore	Liberal	Nova Scotia
Dyck	Liberal	Saskatchewan	Munson	Liberal	Ontario



Furey	Liberal	Newfoundland and Labrador	<i>Nancy Ruth</i>	<i>Conservative</i>	<i>Ontario</i>
Hubley	Liberal	Prince Edward Island	<i>Wallace</i>	<i>Conservative</i>	<i>New Brunswick</i>

It should be noted that although Senator Doug Black from Alberta abstained from voting in the final vote, he did vote in favour of limiting debate in the Senate, and voted to overrule the Speaker’s ruling, which in turn led to the final vote on C-377.

In the final tally, there were three brave Conservative Senators who voted against the bill along with two independent Senators. Our lobbying efforts have asked our Local Union leaders and our members to contact their MP’s and Senators many times in the past in hopes of defeating this legislation. I would ask you to contact the Senators one final time who voted against this bill (NAY’s) and thank them for their efforts to protect not only the many men and women in the labour movement but the many more who will be captured by this broad sweeping bad legislation.

For Senator contact information please click on this link – [Senator Contact](#)

The anti-union forces behind this bill may have won this time, but we are far from finished. We will be working with various affiliates to look at different avenues to continue our fight against this legislation up to and including a Constitutional challenge. Stay tuned.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

In solidarity,

Bill Daniels
International Vice President

BD/mw

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