

Bill C-377 on the table again

A message from Rian McLaughlin, OTF President, September 24, 2014

The Canadian Teachers' Federation (OTF is an affiliate member on your behalf) and the Broadbent Institute have notified us that Bill C-377, after having been dismissed last year and assumed dead, is back on the order papers of the Senate with the backing of the federal Conservative government. The government appears to be attempting to shut down debate and shorten the timelines to push through this anti-union legislation. Both CTF and the Broadbent Institute are once again working diligently, with labour partners, to fight this bill.

Information from the Canadian Teachers' Federation

As you may have heard, debate on Bill C-377 has resumed in the Senate. This came as a surprise, not only to us, but to the opposition parties as well. As late as last week, the Liberal Leader of the Opposition in the Senate, Senator James Cowan informed the Canadian Labour Congress of mixed messages he was getting concerning the passage of C-377 and C-525. On the one hand, he was told by his Senate colleagues that the Bills would remain stalled on the order paper; while on the other hand he was hearing that the Conservative House Leader was moving the time allocation bill so that private member bills could be addressed.

Articles by The Canadian Press and Le Devoir provide an explanation of the current situation.

At this point, CTF will continue to gather information regarding positions of opposition parties and opposition senators. A meeting will be held in the near future with all of the labour partners to recommend next steps. We will in this way be able to continue effective monitoring while recognizing that this matter is destined for the courts and even in a worst case scenario will not be applied before the next election. It remains possible to defeat this both legally and politically while not letting it dominate the agenda.