



Status Report: Workers First Bill



Dear friends,

Thank you for signing the on-line petition supporting Bill C-281 – the Workers First Bill – and joining the fight to protect workers when their employer goes bankrupt.

Thousands of Canadians from every corner of the country have lent their name to this important initiative. Your contributions to this effort have made a real impact.

I am happy to report to you that on May 5, the Workers First Bill passed second reading in the House of Commons. The Bill now goes before a House Standing Committee before returning to the House of Commons for a final vote.

Working together, we were able to win this first critical battle.

But the news gets even better. Because of the support for the Workers First Bill, we were able to deliver a \$100 million investment in protecting workers as part of the NDP's Better Balanced Budget Deal.

This latest initiative will be delivered through Bill C-55, and will:

- establish the Wage Earners Protection Program to protect workers' back wages, vacation pay and unpaid pension contributions
- protect collective agreements, forcing companies wanting bankruptcy protection to negotiate with their employees
- make companies give notice before seeking bankruptcy protection, ensuring no more fiascos like JetsGo's bankruptcy happen where workers and consumers were left stranded without any notice

I am very proud of what Jack Layton and my NDP colleagues have accomplished in this Parliament. We've avoided playing games and focused on delivering results for people.

We are committed to build on this victory and continue to push for better laws to protect hard-working Canadians.

To follow the progress of this and other initiatives, please visit www.ndp.ca

Thank you again for your support – and keep encouraging your friends and co-workers to sign the on-line petition.

In solidarity,

Pat Martin, MP Winnipeg Centre
Author of the Workers First Bill

