

June 23, 2005

To: CLC Executive Council

Subject: Urgent Action on Bill C-55 Workers' Earnings Protection Fund

As you might be aware, Parliament is scheduled to sit for a few more weeks to ensure that Bills C-48, NDP-Liberal Budget Amendments and C-38, Same Sex Marriage Legislation gets passed. We are quite concerned about the status of one other piece of legislation that labour has worked hard for, and apparently has the support of three parties (Liberals, NDP and BQ).

Bill C-55, Wage Earner Protection Program along with amendments to the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act and the Creditors Arrangements Act (CCAA) is very low in the order of House business. If the Conservatives get their way, this Bill will be sent to committee where it will never see the light of day because of extensive opposition by business.

Bill C-55 gives up to \$3,000 back wages and vacation pay owed to workers at the time of bankruptcy. The CCAA is changed so that bankruptcy protection may not be approved unless back wages are paid. The employer must also give notice to bargain and if no new agreement occurs the existing collective agreement remains in force.

It is very important that everyone calls their MP, especially if they are Conservative members and ask them to pass this very important piece of legislation. It is also important to call Stephen Harper's office at: 613-996-6740.

Our office will coordinate some actions with labour councils and unions in the next few days, but it is important to get your staff and key activists calling.

Thank you for your support.

In solidarity,

Hassan Yussuff,
Secretary-Treasurer

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cc. Heads of Unions
CLC Committees
CLC Headquarters and Regional Staff

Labour Councils
Lobbying Working Group