



**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**USW Local 1005, September 26, 2005**

**Oppose CCAA and Bill C-55!**  
**No to Government Intervention**  
**on Behalf of the Monopolies!**  
**Statement by Rolf Gerstenberger,**  
**President, USW Local 1005**

Local 1005 USW is demonstrating on Parliament Hill in Ottawa today to oppose Bill C-55,\* legislation that will further empower monopolies to smash up labour contracts during the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act (CCAA) process.

In the proposed changes under C-55, the judge presiding over the CCAA would have the authority to force a union to enter into negotiations with the intention to give concessions. Section 33(2) states: "A debtor company that is a party to a collective agreement and that *is unable to reach a voluntary agreement with the bargaining agent to revise any of the provisions of the collective agreement* may, on giving five days notice to the bargaining agent, apply to the court for an order authorizing the company to serve a notice to bargain under the laws of the jurisdiction governing collective bargaining between the company and the bargaining agent." (emphasis added)

Across Canada the various provincial and federal governments are facilitating the attacks on workers' rights. Workers at the CBC are opposing attempts to increase the number of contract workers and to decimate the public broadcasting system but the government is leaving both the workers and public broadcasting to the mercy of "market forces." Time and again, Telus has been found guilty of violating the law but no action is taken against it. On the contrary, Telus is permitted to act with impunity while the government even refuses to back up the Canadian Industrial Relations Board (CIRB) by ordering Telus into binding arbitration. Countless examples can be given of government failure to defend public interest. We demand that governments do their duty to uphold public right and stop intervening on behalf of the monopolies.

CCAA and the proposed changes contained in Bill C-55 do not deal with the causes of bankruptcy and do nothing to help the situation for the better. They blame workers for the economic problems, attack their collective rights and do not offer redress for organized or unorganized workers during a bankruptcy. A government must take up its responsibility during a bankruptcy and protect the public good and legally binding collective rights of workers. It should not provide a public forum and institution for corporate Canada to attack the rights of workers and allow companies and the government to abandon their responsibilities towards the livelihoods and pensions of Canadian workers.

We demand our collective rights under all economic conditions, and redress during the bankruptcy process. Bankruptcy should not be an occasion to attack workers; it should be a time to deal with the real underlying economic causes and uphold the public good and Canada's social economy.

Local 1005 is asking for your support in its campaign to oppose the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act (CCAA) and the proposed changes under Bill C-55.

***Laws Must Enshrine the Government's Duty to Society:***  
***No to Government Intervention on Behalf of the Monopolies!***  
***In the Spirit of '46: Fight for the Dignity of Labour!***

\* "An Act to Establish the Wage Earner Protection Program Act, to Amend the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act and the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act and to Make Consequential Amendments to Other Acts"

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