



**INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS
FRATERNITÉ INTERNATIONALE DES OUVRIERS EN ÉLECTRICITÉ**



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September 22, 2014

TO ALL IBEW FIRST DISTRICT LOCAL UNIONS

RE: Update on Private Members Bill C-377, An Act to amend the Income Tax Act

Greetings:

In a story that broke yesterday titled "[Tories revive union bill that provoked Senate rebellion; move to limit debate](#)" it was revealed that Conservative Senators are looking to cut debate short on private members business. What does this mean? It is not uncommon for the government, Prime Minister's office, or the Senate to limit debate on government bills, however this is a tactic to try and fast track Private Members Bill's through the Senate, most notably Bill C-377 and Bill C-525.

Although Bill C-377 was previously amended, Harper's decision to prorogue parliament last summer effectively reset the Bill to its original form as passed in the House. When parliament resumed, the Senate received the Bill again un-amended, even though Conservative Senator Hugh Segal had eloquently amended the Bill until it was almost toothless. In June 2014, Senator Hugh Segal retired from the Senate taking on his new role of Master of Massey College in Toronto.

Both the House of Commons and Senate returned last week after their summer break and have obviously wasted no time in starting to move on this legislation. There are a number of possible reasons why they have chosen now to move on the bill including; the absence of Senator Segal, the loss suffered by the Tim Hudak led PC's in Ontario, the influence of the Working Families Coalition, all of the union boots on the ground in Ontario helping to elect anyone but a Conservative, the federal Conservative's recent polling numbers, and to gain financial support from the likes of members of Merit Canada, the CFIB and so on leading up to the Federal election that is just 13 months away.

We need our members from across this country to get involved in this battle. We need our leaders and our members to contact the Senators from their respective Province (see attached list, or [click here for the link](#)) and tell them not to support Bill C-377 or Bill C-525.

This fight isn't over, the Conservatives & their friends at Merit Canada have chosen to re-start it. We need to show them that all 67,000 IBEW members in Canada are prepared for this fight.



Thank you for your attention to this matter. Our office will continue to keep you updated on these anti-worker pieces of legislation.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Bill Daniels", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Bill Daniels
International Vice President

BD/mw

Encl.

cc: First District Representatives
System Council #11
IBEW. CCO
NPAC

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