



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Strike-breaker bill

UNIONS SUPPORT THE BLOC QUÉBÉCOIS

Ottawa, Thursday, May 4, 2006 –The Bloc Québécois labour critic and MP for Saint-Bruno—Saint-Hubert, **Carole Lavallée**, and fellow MP for Gatineau, **Richard Nadeau**, received significant support when they introduced the Bloc Québécois’s strike-breaker bill in the House of Commons today. **Hassan Yussuff**, Secretary-Treasurer of the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC), **Michel Quijada**, representative of the *Centrale des syndicats nationaux* (CSN), and **Dino Lemay**, representative of the *Fédération des travailleurs et des travailleuses du Québec* (FTQ), joined them in calling upon the House of Commons to adopt the Bloc Québécois bill to prevent the use of strike-breakers.

Carole Lavallée indicated that this initiative is designed to ensure that workers subject to the *Canada Labour Code* can enjoy a more equitable balance of power with their employer. “The *Canada Labour Code* is quite far behind the *Code du travail du Québec*, Quebec’s labour code, which banned strike-breakers a long time ago. The Bloc Québécois bill would correct this inequity and even out the power relationship between workers subject to the *Canada Labour Code* and their employer,” stated the MP.

Carole Lavallée stressed that the anti-strike-breaker legislation adopted by Quebec in 1977 significantly advanced the rights of all workers subject to the *Code du travail du Québec*. She also invited unions in Quebec and Canada to promote this bill.

Richard Nadeau, who introduced the bill, stated that this is the tenth Bloc Québécois bill since 1995 to call for such measures and that the Bloc Québécois has once again made every effort to bring this matter to resolution by making it the very first bill it introduces.

For their part, FTQ secretary general **René Roy** and CSN vice-president **Roger Valois** noted through their representatives that both unions support the bill and that every effort will be made to get it passed. The representatives of the two unions recalled that it is high time for workers under federal jurisdiction to be truly protected in labour disputes. In their opinion, this major weakness in the *Canada Labour Code* has greatly exacerbated tensions and has prolonged labour disputes, including the ones at Cargil, whose workers are CSN members, and at Vidéotron, whose workers are FTQ members.

“Employers and employees alike suffer in these lengthy labour disputes. It is in the interest of all parties to resolve disputes quickly and banning the use of strike-breakers would be very helpful in this regard. This is why we support the Bloc Québécois bill and will do everything to see that the bill is passed,” stated FTQ secretary general **René Roy** and CSN vice-president **Roger Valois**.

This bill, which includes a provision allowing managers to carry out duties during disputes, as is currently the case under the *Code du travail du Québec*, will be debated the day before the Commons rises for its summer recess.

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