



# COMMUNIQUÉ

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## THE BLOC QUÉBÉCOIS RENEWS ITS ATTEMPT TO GET AN ANTI-STRIKEBREAKER BILL ADOPTED

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Ottawa, Monday, May 1 – The Bloc Québécois took the opportunity offered today by International Workers’ Day to announce that it will be presenting a new bill on Thursday to prohibit any use of strikebreakers. The bill will be debated before the House recesses for the summer. “The Bloc Québécois is not in the habit of conceding defeat in those causes dear to Quebecers and it has no intention of doing it for workers with the threat of replacement workers hanging over them,” said Gatineau MP, **Richard Nadeau**, who will submit the bill.

His colleague, Bloc Québécois Labour Critic and MP for Saint-Bruno—Saint-Hubert **Carole Lavallée**, said that anti-strikebreaker measures were being introduced in order to promote both labour peace and more civilized negotiations during labour conflicts. She pointed out that workers currently governed by the *Canada Labour Code* do not have the counterweight that such a bill would offer in their power relationship with their employer. The result is that there are currently two categories of workers in Quebec: those protected by the *Quebec Labour Code* and those governed by the *Canada Labour Code*.

“Protective measures such as this have existed in the *Quebec Labour Code* since 1977 and have reduced the overall duration of conflicts. For example, in 2002, workers under federal jurisdiction represented 6.6% of Quebec’s labour force but were responsible for 48% of the days lost to labour conflicts,” explained **Carole Lavallée**.

**Richard Nadeau** then expressed the hope that this time Stephen Harper’s Conservatives would be able to put the interests of workers first, since just a few months ago, they lined up behind the former Liberal government to vote down Bill C-263, which the Bloc Québécois had presented. The bill was defeated by a mere 12 votes, while in 2003, during another attempt by the Bloc Québécois, a similar bill was defeated by 18 votes.

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