



Canadian Association of University Teachers  
Association canadienne des professeurs et professeurs d'université

**BY FAX**

613 947-2241

October 21, 2013

Senator Raynell Andreychuk  
The Senate of Canada  
Ottawa, Ontario  
Canada  
K1A 0A4

Dear Senator:

We are writing to you on behalf of the Canadian Association of University Teachers. We are a federation of local and provincial academic staff associations that together represent 68,000 staff in over 120 universities and colleges across Canada.

We are deeply troubled to have learned that the Government last week returned Bill C-377, *An Act to amend to the Income Tax act (requirements for labour organizations)*, to the Senate. In doing so the Government has flatly rejected all the amendments that had been passed by a majority of Senators from across party lines after extensive hearings.

As you know, Bill C-377 is a private members' bill that would impose onerous reporting requirements on trade unions, labour organizations, and any association representing employees. It would apply to CAUT and all of its member associations, unionized and non-unionized. The legislation would force employee associations like ours to file detailed information about all their activities and the individuals and companies with whom they do business. That information would then be posted publicly on a Canada Revenue Agency website.

The hearings conducted by the Senate earlier this year revealed overwhelming opposition to the Bill. Expert witnesses made it very clear that the legislation is unnecessary, discriminatory, invasive and likely unconstitutional. Specific flaws of the Bill include the following:

- Bill C-377 is not needed. Information on the finances of employee associations like CAUT is readily available to any member.
- Bill C-377 discriminates against employee organizations. The Bill would require organizations like ours to make detailed financial and other information public, but it does not apply to organizations representing doctors, accountants, lawyers, businesses, and others. For this reason, the *Globe and Mail* newspaper described Bill C-377 as a “witch hunt.”

- Bill C-377 invades the privacy of individuals. The federal Privacy Commissioner and the Canadian Bar Association have both expressed their deep concern about the Bill's requirement that detailed information about individuals and companies be posted publicly. Canadian mutual fund and life insurance companies also expressed alarm over how the privacy rights of their clients and investors would be violated.
- Bill C-377 is so poorly drafted that the Senate refused to pass it and took the rare step of referring it back to the House of Commons with major amendments in June 2013. The Government is completely dismissing the Senate's work on Bill C-377 by sending it back in its original form. The Senate now has to deal with the same flawed bill all over again.
- The Government claims that Bill C-377 is about financial transparency, but it appears to us that it is actually meant to weaken employee associations by forcing them to devote considerable time and resources to comply with the onerous reporting requirements.

In short, the Bill is not needed, it discriminates against labour and employee organizations, and it invades the privacy of individuals. It is almost certainly unconstitutional. We therefore urge you to vote to defeat Bill C-377.

Sincerely,



Wayne D. Peters  
President



James L. Turk  
Executive Director