



OPEIU BULLETIN

Office and Professional Employees' International Union, Local 378
2nd Floor, 4595 Canada Way, Burnaby, B.C. V5G 4L9
Phone: 299-0378 Fax: 299-8211 www.opeiu.ca

June 7, 2004

TO: All OPEIU Members

Legal counsel for OPEIU Locals 378 and 15 have demanded an immediate public apology and retraction of inaccurate and defamatory comments contained in newspaper ads placed in the weekend Vancouver Sun and the Province by International OPEIU President Michael Goodwin. This ad has also been placed in newspapers across the country.

A copy of that letter has been posted on our website.

It is unfortunate Mr. Goodwin is exercising such desperate means to attempt to block Canadian members in our democratic and constitutional right to seek an autonomous Canadian union if that is our wish.

Last week the BC Supreme Court rejected an attempt by the International to stop Canadian members from completing and counting our "Canadian autonomy authorization" forms by seeking an interim injunction. The case was heard in BC Supreme Court Thursday, June 3, 2004.

Justice Pitfield's decision rejecting the International's injunction application means we can continue giving Canadian OPEIU members the opportunity to express their wish to form their own autonomous Canadian union.

The Judge also found in part that the International did not make full, fair and frank disclosure to the courts and that Canadian OPEIU members could suffer irreparable harm if an injunction was granted, as there is every likelihood that the International may act to limit or severely restrict or impede rights to autonomy which have been in the OPEIU Constitution since 1977.

OPEIU members are encouraged to send in their forms as soon as possible as we expect there may be changes at the upcoming International convention in mid-June to change or even remove the "Canadian Autonomy" provisions in our Constitution [Article XIV (1)] which allows Canadian OPEIU members to run our own national union if we so choose.

Members are encouraged to visit our website at www.opeiu.ca and click on the Canadian flag for more information about our Canadian autonomy drive to create a Canadian union autonomous from the OPEIU International.

In Solidarity,

Jerri New
President, OPEIU Local 378
Canadian Director