



Mr. Lid Strand
AUCE Provincial
#901 - 207 West Hastings Street
Vancouver, B.C.
V6R 1J8

Dear Lid:

As our vice-president called you yesterday concerning our attendance at this weekend's provincial meeting, I am sure the late arrival of this letter will cause no inconvenience for the provincial executive.

AUCE Local #5 is not attending this meeting nor will our representatives be attending future AUCE Provincial meetings until we have a firm indication that the Provincial Association is dealing with our petition for secession in good faith in accordance with the provincial constitution.

At the AUCE Provincial Meeting of February 26 and 27, our representatives delivered our petition to secede from AUCE provincial with the signatures of over 50% of our membership in accordance with Section 6 of the Constitution. We requested that our petition be handled in a timely fashion because of the very difficult situation facing our local at the College of New Caledonia.

It is now April 23 and nothing has happened although we have attempted to cooperate in every way to speed the process along. The Constitution calls for "a full inquiry and a referendum vote of the Local Association concerned". At the February meeting which our representatives attended, a committee was struck to look into our petition chaired by Nancy Wiggs. It decided to interpret the inquiry process as a series of options the committee might take including a meeting with the membership, with the local executive, with the stewards and/or a questionnaire.

Without consultation with the elected representatives of AUCE Local 5, the Committee unilaterally decided that the first step of the inquiry process would be a questionnaire. The purpose, nature and format of such a questionnaire and its relationship to a "full inquiry" has never been specified. Secondly, the Committee demanded the home addresses of all our members so that "confidentiality" would be safeguarded when the questionnaire was sent to them. This was a very time consuming process and totally unnecessary as explained to Ms. Wiggs by our vice-president. Confidential mail can simply be labeled as such and sent to our employer where it is distributed as such through each division where our members are employed. Nonetheless, in the spirit of co-operation and good faith we supplied the addresses of each member.

Since then nothing has happened which we can only interpret as a deliberate attempt to thwart our petition to secede and is a violation of the Provincial Constitution which mandates the Provincial Executive to "conduct a full inquiry and a referendum vote of the Local Association . . . upon receipt of a petition of 25% of the membership of the Local Association". This is understandable given the composition of the Committee designated to look into our petition. Ms. Nancy Wiggs is the chairperson and a member of Local 1 which has laid charges against our local last year for affiliating to the CCU. Our

accusors have now been made our judge and jury. In view of harmony and solidarity in the Union locals, remarks like those that were made by the president and some of the provincial executive at February's meeting were untrue and uncalled for and very detrimental.

Accordingly, we demand that the inquiry be carried out immediately in consultation with the elected executive of AUCE Local #5. Secondly, we demand that a new Committee be struck immediately to deal with this inquiry without the participation of Local 1.

Until our petition to secede has been dealt with in accordance with the provisions of the Provincial Constitution we have no choice but to withhold our per capita tax to the AUCE Provincial Association and proceed to affiliate with a union that will respect our local autonomy and the interests of our membership.

Sincerely,



Wilf Bellmond,
President

cc: Nancy Wiggs, President, AUCE Provincial
R. McKee, President AUCE Local #4
Presidents of Local 1
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