

AUCE PROVINCIAL

#901 - 207 W. Hastings St, Vancouver, B.C. V6B 1J8

December 18, 1980.

Dear Member of AUCE

Enclosed with this letter you will find the third referendum ballot on the question of affiliation, with instructions, and an explanation of the referendum process. Please read them carefully to ensure that you fill in your ballot correctly.

The question of affiliation is one of great importance to AUCE. The ballot process could result in our union ceasing to exist in its present form - and therefore requires careful consideration and participation from all members. The first two ballots decided that we should seek affiliation to another labour organisation, and that the organisation should be the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC). Now we have to decide whether to attempt to affiliate to the CLC by lobbying CLC affiliates, or by merging with a CLC union.

"To lobby" means trying to influence officials and rank and file members of unions within the CLC to endorse our application, and to pressure the CLC executive to reverse their decision to reject our application. This would involve formal meetings with the executives of CLC unions to explain our position, and to ask for their support; it would also involve informal meetings. We would try to get resolutions passed in support of our application, until we were admitted to the CLC, as a union with our own constitution and structure.

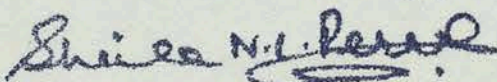
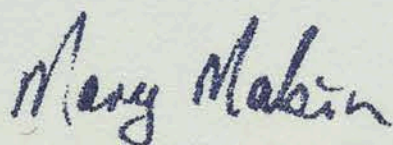
"To merge" means to enter negotiations with a CLC union, to arrange the terms on which the membership of AUCE would become members of that union, and thereby be admitted to the CLC. It would mean giving up AUCE's constitution and structure, and accepting that of the other union. It would also require changing the certification of each local, and votes might well be conducted by the Labour Relations Board, to ensure that it is a majority decision.

The information gathered by the affiliation committee - constitutions of unions and labour organisations, minutes of the meetings held with representatives of various unions and organisations, etc. - is in the Provincial Office. If you feel you need additional information in order to make your decision, please get in touch with your local Provincial Representative, or with the Provincial Office - 684-2457 - and we will ensure you get information on all sides of the issue.

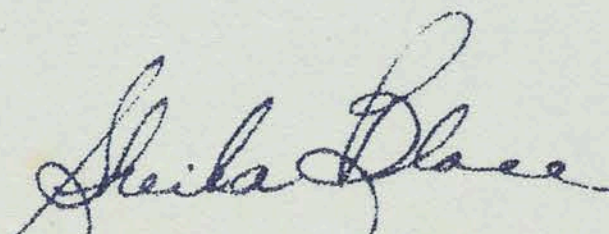
The interpretation of the results of the second ballot presented a problem. There was a high percentage of abstentions, and while the CLC received more votes than any other option, the majority of ballots returned were not in favour of the CLC. The interpretation that the CLC won, therefore means that abstentions do not count as votes cast. Abstentions are ballots returned, but they are not votes counted. IF YOU ABSTAIN, YOU ARE NOT CASTING A VOTE THAT WILL COUNT.

The ballot results will decide the future direction of AUCE. It is vital that every member participate in making this decision. Please think carefully about this question, AND EXERCISE YOUR VOTE.

In solidarity,

Sheila Perret & Mary Mabin
for Provincial Executive



Sheila Blace
Provincial Trustee