



B.C. FEDERATION OF LABOUR (CLC)

3110 Boundary Road, Burnaby, B.C. V5M 4A2 (604) 430-1421

May 16, 1985.

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A. U. G. E.

TO: ALL AFFILIATES

Pat

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

As you are aware there are a number of unions challenging various pieces of legislation before the Supreme Court of Canada based on Section 15 of the Constitution. In addition there are several unions actively considering making challenges under the same Section.

On recommendation of the Federation's Public Sector Committee the Federation Officers are setting in place a method of co-ordinating the various Section 15 actions of our affiliates. The purpose of this co-ordination is to ensure that two or more affiliates are not undertaking essentially the same action and using the same arguments all at the same time. If it is possible to combine such action then, in the interest of cost effectiveness alone, it makes sense to do so.

Would you please advise my office if your organization has undertaken a Section 15 action, or if and when you are considering such an action. We will then put the information together with that received from other organizations to see if there is any duplication. You will be advised if any duplication exists.

In another Section 15 related matter, the Federation will be approaching the CLC in an attempt to establish a common fund to be used to assist affiliates who find themselves under attack from Section 15 challenges. Most people erroneously believe that all Section 15 challenges will be in the cause of fairness and equality; this is not the case. Already anti-union lawyers are seeking ways to challenge union shop, seniority, and other provisions of collective agreements under Section 15. The purpose of the proposed CLC fund will be to ensure that smaller affiliates have adequate finances to defend themselves from such attack. I remind you that it will only take one union to lose a union shop challenge and everybody will be affected equally.

Yours in solidarity,

CLIFF ANDSTEIN,
Secretary-Treasurer.

TF:CA:RFD
Oteu#15

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