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House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
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March 2nd, 2012

Dear Member of Parliament,

I am writing to you on behalf of Merit Canada and the 3,500 open shop construction companies who directly employ over 60,000 Canadians to ask for your support of C-377. An Act to amend the Income Tax Act (requirements for labour organizations). This Private Member's Bill is in the name of Russ Hiebert, MP (South Surrey-White Rock Cloverdale).

This is an important piece of legislation. If implemented, C-377 would go a long way toward restoring the right of workers to know and control how their dues are spent and would allow Canadians to determine the effectiveness and integrity of labour organizations.

Canadians are in the dark when it comes to how union executives spend the millions of dollars in dues that they collect each year. Transparency empowers workers to make more informed decisions about their preference for representation.

Beyond the simple matter of fairness to the taxpayers who subsidize labour organizations, this is important for many reasons. It's important for the Canadian worker to make an informed decision in the event of a certification vote. He or she ought to know whether the labour organization is in a strong financial position or if his or her dues are spent on lobbying and advocacy and, if so, on behalf of what causes. It is also important for Canadians to know how their tax dollars are being used to influence public policy.

That is why 83 per cent of Canadians and 86 per cent of unionized workers support disclosure according to a survey conducted by Nanos Research.

And that is why Merit Canada is asking for you to **vote in favour of C-377, An Act to amend the Income Tax Act (requirements for labour organizations).**

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Oakey", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Terrance Oakey
President
Merit Canada

