



TEAMSTERS CANADA RAIL CONFERENCE DIVISION 320



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November 4, 2009

Subject: Back to Work Legislation for BC Paramedics?

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This office received the appended message from C.U.P.E late yesterday. Hopefully a Union's rights will not be stripped due to the Olympics. That would be a sad day for Organized Labour.

Also appended is a bulletin from CUPE asking for the citizens of BC to assist them in fighting Bill 21 which was introduced in the legislature on November 2nd. Please take the time to contact your MLA, and ensure our voice is heard in an attempt to stop this Bill.

In Solidarity,

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VANOC behind back-to-work legislation



November 3, 2009 01:43 PM

VICTORIA - A memo from VANOC to the provincial ambulance service appears to be behind the government's move to legislate B.C.'s 3,500 striking ambulance paramedics "back to work" in the middle of collective bargaining.

Health Services Minister Kevin Falcon has repeatedly denied that the Olympics ordered his government's attack on collective bargaining rights. He introduced Bill 21 yesterday in the House to impose a contract on the paramedics that will last until after the 2010 Games. He claims the move is only to relieve tired ambulance service managers and to address the H1N1 pandemic.

But in September, a memorandum was sent from VANOC director of medical services Dr. Mike Wilkinson to Ambulance Service CEO Lee Doney and other government officials. In part that memo states:

"VANOC Medical Services (and thus the IOC) requires definitive confirmation by Oct 1, 2009 that all required ambulance services will be provided as planned. These services include the ability to engage the VPCs and BCAS members in full venue planning as soon as possible. This confirmation must also include a guarantee that no services during the Games will be disrupted or reduced from what has been planned."

"If we are unable to obtain that guarantee (through either settlement of the strike or legislated "detente" for the Games), then VANOC will be required to initiate alternative contingency plans to avoid cancellation of the Games."

[CUPE BC](#) president Barry O'Neill says "it seems obvious to me that this memo is at the heart of the provincial government's shameful disregard for our ambulance paramedics."

The Ambulance Services Collective Agreement Act introduced by Falcon yesterday is a first in Canadian labour history. It marks the first time a government has forced public employees to accept a collective agreement while the union is in the middle of voting on an offer from that same government.

"The people of B.C. have the right to know the truth from their health minister especially when workers' rights are being trampled," says O'Neill. "To blame the H1N1 pandemic when the ambulance paramedics have been calling on the government to address this health crisis for more than a year is despicable."



AMBULANCE PARAMEDICS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



E-News Bulletin

November 3, 2009

Dear concerned citizen,

Yesterday (November 2nd), the BC Liberal government introduced legislation that forces B.C.'s 3,500 ambulance paramedics "back to work" in the middle of collective bargaining. The Ambulance Services Collective Agreement Act (BILL 21), introduced by Health Services Minister Kevin Falcon, is unprecedented in Canadian labour history. This is the first time a government has forced public employees to accept a collective agreement while the union is in the middle of voting on an offer from that same government.

Falcon has used the H1N1 virus to justify this outrageous assault on collective bargaining, and he continually denies that the Olympics are driving the government's strategy. But we now know that in September the BC Ambulance Service received a memo from VANOC demanding a guarantee of ambulance services, "through either settlement or legislated 'détente' for the Games."

This only compounds the outrage of Bill 21. The government is lying about its reasons for imposing a settlement. If the Liberals had negotiated a fair collective agreement for B.C.'s hardworking ambulance paramedics, this issue would never have been raised.

This legislation is currently being debated in BC's Provincial Legislature and could pass as early as Thursday. It is thus critical that your MLA hear from you immediately, prior to voting on it. We are asking you to e-mail your MLA with a copy to Premier Campbell and Minister Falcon.

For those of you in Liberal constituencies, please put pressure on your MLA with the message that this legislation is regressive and shameful and that, as their constituent, you demand that they oppose Bill 21 and further demand that they urge the government to allow the collective bargaining process to continue.

If you live in an NDP constituency, please thank your MLA for their opposition to Bill 21 thus far and ask them to use all means at their disposal to defeat this legislation.

For those who live in the Victoria area, we encourage you to visit the legislature tomorrow (Wednesday) from 1:30 pm until 7 pm to witness debate on the bill.

Visit <http://www.leg.bc.ca/mla/3-1-1.htm> to find your MLA's contact details.

You can copy Premier Campbell at premier@gov.bc.ca and Minister Falcon at kevin.falcon.mla@leg.bc.ca.

Please [FORWARD THIS MESSAGE](#) to anyone else you feel would act upon this information immediately.

Thank you for your support. Ambulance Paramedics Of BC www.saveourparamedics.com
www.apbc.ca