

CHEF DE L'OPPOSITION OFFICIELLE
NOUVEAU PARTI DÉMOCRATIQUE DU CANADA



LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION
NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF CANADA

THOMAS MULCAIR
DÉPUTÉ, MP, OUTREMONT

May 6, 2015

Emmanuelle Tremblay, President
Canadian Association of Professional Employees
100 Queen Street, Fourth Floor
Ottawa, ON K1P 1J9

Dear Ms. Tremblay:

I am writing to inform you that the NDP and I are committed to repealing the anti-union bills C-377 and C-525, legislation introduced by the Conservatives to weaken and trample on workers' rights. An NDP government would also repeal the many provisions of Bill C-4 that directly attack public service unions. It is high time the collective bargaining process was respected.

Canadians want a competent and independent public service. I am very proud of my own public service career. The time has come for the government to sit down and negotiate with public servants in good faith rather than demonize them. The anti-union laws the Conservatives have copied from radical Republicans in the United States have no place in Canada.

With the help of its allies in the labour movement, the NDP led the charge against the anti-union bills C-377, C-525 and C-4 in the House of Commons. As you know, Bill C-377 would waste public funds to impose useless and ineffective administrative restrictions on labour organizations. The NDP voted against Bill C-377 and collected the signatures of thousands of Canadians who are angered by the Conservatives' attacks on unions.

We also waged a constant battle against Bill C-525, which makes it practically impossible for workers to unionize. In addition, this bill goes against the trend among provincial governments, which are trying to improve access to collective bargaining. Unlike the Conservatives, the NDP believes that all Canadians have the right to collective bargaining under a fair and democratic process.

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Finally, the NDP condemned the anti-democratic changes the Conservatives made to the *Public Service Labour Relations Act* in Bill C-4. This legislation infringes on the right to free bargaining by allowing the government to unilaterally designate categories of employees as essential service providers. Rather than promote stable and harmonious labour agreements that enable public servants to dedicate themselves to serving Canadians, the government's decision to eliminate binding arbitration will poison labour relations and increase the risk of strikes in the public service.

Now is the time to improve the relationship between the government and the public service and to ensure it is based on respect and the non-partisan professionalism of the public service. Our public servants deserve better.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom Mulcair". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line extending from the top of the first letter.

Tom Mulcair, MP (Outremont)
Leader of the Official Opposition
New Democratic Party of Canada