

[Letterhead]

Longueuil, March 28, 2012

BY POST

James Rajotte
Chair
Standing Committee on Finance
131 Queen Street, 6th Floor
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Rajotte:

Subject: Bill C-377

I am writing to express my opposition to Bill C-377, introduced by Conservative MP Russ Hiebert, proposing to amend the *Income Tax Act* to establish new rules for labour organizations. By compelling these organizations to disclose financial information, including the details of individual transactions over \$5,000, loans receivable exceeding \$250, accounts payable and receivable, and detailed financial statements, this bill will result in needless union spending of funds coming from member's union dues, when this money could be used to benefit members, as originally intended.

While we understand that Mr. Hiebert's goal in tabling this legislation is to increase transparency and accountability to the public, we believe that these onerous requirements are disproportionate and not justified by these goals. As I am sure you know, any member who wants information on how union dues are spend can obtain this information easily; it is publically available and presented to all members at each general meeting. Furthermore, the requirements the bill seeks to impose on labour organizations are much more onerous and costly than those imposed on similar organizations, such as Canadian registered charities and unions in the United States.

For these reasons, we ask that, when examining this legislation, you consider the upshot of this bill for Canadian unions—bodies whose importance the Supreme Court has recognized.

Yours sincerely,

[signed]
Jean-Yves Filion
President
TCA Local 510