

HEU PROVINCIAL OFFICE

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All LABOUR COUNCILS

Attention:

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Kamloops & District Labour Council

Kitimat, Terrace & District Labour Council MacKenzie & District Committee of Labour

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Nanaimo, Duncan & District Labour Council

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North Okanagan Labour Council

Peace River District Labour Council

Port Alberni & District Labour Council

Powell River & District Labour Council

Pince George & District Labour Council

Prince Rupert Labour Council

Quesnel & District Labour Council

Shuswap Columbia Labour Council

South Cariboo Labour Council

South Okanagan Boundary Labour Council

Squamish & District Committee of Labour

Sunshine Coast & District Labour Council

Vancouver & District Labour Council

Victoria Labour Council

West Kootenay Labour Council

Dear Sister/Brother:

RE: BCNU raid on HEU/BCGEU Licenced Practical Nurses

On July 14, 2004, representatives of the BCNU, along with a couple of HEU members from the executive of the Licenced Practical Nurses Association of BC met with Rick Connolly, the B.C. Deputy Minister of Labour. They have requested that LPNs, who are currently represented by HEU and the BCGEU, be transferred into the Nurses' Bargaining Association (NBA). Strangely enough, this is exactly what health Employers demanded one day after their government got elected in 2001.

This action is a raid. Bill 29, the draconian legislation that was passed at 5 a.m. on January 28, 2002, repealed the clause that allowed Unions to follow their members if there was a change in bargaining associations.



HEU has had an established bargaining relationship for LPNs ever since the first LPN graduated in 1948. We have a long history in advocating for LPNs to expand their practice and to pressure employers to allow them to utilize their full scope. We achieved over 30% in pay equity wage increases for our LPNs.

CUPE/HEU and NUPGE/BCGEU filed raiding charges against NFNU/BCNU with the CLC on July 14th. We are very concerned that these charges be dealt with expeditiously. Our previous experience when the IWA-Canada violated the CLC Constitution by signing voluntary recognition agreements with multinational contractors left much to be desired. The case dragged on for over a year and so tar, we have received more relief from an BCLRB decision than from the processes internal to the house of labour.

HEU has been under constant attack ever since the Gordon Campbell Liberals got elected and has received outstanding support from your Labour Council and committed grass roots activists.

We are asking that you urge the CLC ensure that this latest transgression by a CLC affiliate is dealt with expeditiously.

In solidarity;

Fred Muzin President

FM/sfc (vail:2004/labourcouncils BCNU raid)

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Attachments:

- Raiding charges; HEABC submission; BCNU/LPNABC press release