# labour report



May & June 2013

with Alexandre Boulerice

Dear workers,

As the Official Opposition Labour Critic, I am pleased to unveil the Labour Report, a new bimonthly publication addressing the issues on which our team has focussed considerable energy and attention.

With the Conservatives bent on undermining the rights and wellbeing of workers, it will be important to unite our voices and present a common front during the upcoming election. Canadians deserve a government that is responsive to their needs.

I hope this newsletter can be part of a broader movement toward long-awaited change in Ottawa!

## COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

I am the NDP Associate Ethics Critic and therefore a member of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Access to Information, Privacy and Ethics. In recent months, the Committee has been reviewing the Conflict of Interest Act. The Committee has heard numerous witnesses and considered the recommendations of Conflict of Interest and Ethics Commissioner Mary Dawson, and is now ready to formulate its own recommendations on proposed changes to the Act.

I also sit on the Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities, which is currently conducting a study on the problems encountered by older workers trying to enter the workforce.

## APRIL 27 PROTEST




Twenty two New Democrat MPs took part in the April 27 protest to denounce the gutting of the Employment Insurance (EI) Program. According to the media, the demonstration, which was organized by the Coalition québécoise contre la réforme de l'assurance-emploi, drew more than 50,000 protesters. A resounding success!

NDP supporters from across Quebec came together as a dynamic force. Together, we vehemently condemned this Conservative policy.

We believe that the new regulations will make it even harder to qualify for benefits, thus penalizing workers who have paid into the Employment Insurance Fund. Furthermore, we demand that the extra five weeks of EI benefits be reinstated.

## SPEECH BEFORE THE CLC

At the annual meeting of the Canadian Labour Congress's Executive Council, I spoke about the importance of standing together to confront the Conservatives. They tried to undermine the unions with Bill C 377, and won't hesitate to attack the Rand Formula. We must be vigilant and stand strong to meet the challenges that lie ahead!

## AN ATTACK AGAINST WORKERS

Several issues have garnered media attention in recent weeks. The gutting of the EI Program, poor management of the Temporary Foreign Worker Program and interference in Crown corporations are the mainstays of the Conservative government's offensive against the wellbeing of workers.



In fact, these issues are part of an even bigger ploy: the Harper government's attempt to lower wages. Seasonal workers will be forced to accept jobs that pay only 70% of their usual salary, employers are hiring more temporary foreign workers at lower wages, and Treasury Board could start meddling in the negotiation of the collective agreements of workers at Canada Post, Via Rail and CBC/Radio-Canada. All these measures will exert downward pressure on the wages of workers in various sectors.

Since becoming the Official Opposition, the NDP has clinched several victories and will continue to fight to ensure that the rights of workers are respected. That's all for now. We will have more to say in the next Labour Report.

@alexboulerice
/alexboulerice
www.boulerice.org
alexandre.boulerice@parl.gc.ca

Alexandre Boulerice
MP for Rosemont -- La Petite-Patrie
Official Labour critic