

Backgrounder on *Labour Code* Lobbying

The Alberta Federation of Labour (AFL) submitted *Freedom of Information* (FOIP) requests after media reports of intense lobbying by the Construction Competitiveness Coalition (CCC) to change Alberta's *Labour Relations Code*.

We were concerned that the *Labour Relations Code* review process was unfair and unbalanced and that the CCC was seeking to make changes to the law solely for the benefit of its members.

The AFL submitted FOIP requests for all communication between members of the CCC and Employment and Immigration (now Human Services), and Executive Council (The Office of the Premier).

The results of our FOIP requests reinforce our concerns. Albertans have a right to know that their government conducts its affairs with impartiality and integrity. We're concerned that the CCC's interaction with the government may have crossed the line.

We are particularly concerned that lobbyists, only one of whom appears to be registered (Merit Contractors Association)¹, may have tied support of the Progressive Conservative Party to changes to legislation.

We're calling for a full investigation into the Construction Competitiveness Coalition and government's actions. We are calling for investigations under the *Conflicts of Interest Act* and the *Lobbyists Act*.

Excerpts of the above documents follow.

The Construction Competitiveness Coalition is:

- McLennan Ross²
- PCL
- Peter Kiewit Sons Co.
- JV Driver
- Flint Energy
- Ledcor
- Merit Contractors Association
- Progressive Contractors Association of Canada (PCAC)

A search of Alberta's Lobbyist Registry shows that Merit Contractors Association is the only registered lobbyist of the group which brings into question the appropriateness of such lobbying efforts by the other members of the CCC.³

Members of the CCC donated an estimated \$121,800 to P.C. Leadership campaigns (Rick Orman did not disclose donations).

Members of the CCC donated an estimate \$186,750 to the P.C. Party since 2009.

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¹ Office of the Ethics Commissioner of Alberta, "Lobbyists Registration for Merit Contractors Association," <http://www.lobbyistsact.ab.ca/LRS/RegistrationPublic.nsf/vwByRegNum/OL0011-20091001141019?OpenDocument>

² Identified as such in correspondence dated August 31, 2011 by Dwayne Chomyn and John Hope, appointed by Minister Lukaszuk to lead the *Labour Code* review

³ Office of the Ethics Commissioner of Alberta, "Lobbyists Registration," <http://www.lobbyistsact.ab.ca/LRS/RegistrationPublic.nsf/vwByRegNum/OL0011-20091001141019?OpenDocument>