

PIPSC Key To Great Victory For All Unionized Employees. Collaboration with Official Opposition bears fruit

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Fellow members,

As you know, on October 3, 2011 a private member's bill was introduced in the House of Commons by Conservative MP Russ Hiebert, which would have amended the rules governing the Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada and other labour organizations. This was nothing more than a feeble attempt to create an issue where one does not exist and an attack on unions in Canada.

In reaction to this bill, the Institute immediately undertook a series of actions to protect the rights of its members, and indeed those of all unionized employees across Canada:

After thoroughly researching the bill, our staff developed a strategy that uses parliamentary procedure to dispose of this Bill without tackling the government head-on.

Building on our strong government relations capacity, on October 13th we promoted this novel approach with the Official Opposition.

Over the weekend of October 15 and 16, PIPSC staff continued a dialogue with the Official Opposition, providing their staff with a detailed briefing and procedural arguments with a view to disposing of Bill C-317.

On October 19th, NDP House Leader Joe Comartin rose on Point of Order, challenging the validity of the Bill. The Bill's sponsor MP Russ Hiebert presented his counter-arguments on October 25th, and PIPSC staff were asked to provide input in anticipation of the Opposition's reply.

On October 26th, Mr. Comartin responded in the House, incorporating many PIPSC arguments.

On November 4, 2011, the Speaker of the House of Commons ruled in favour of the NDP's Point of Order, thereby disposing of Bill C-317. This is a complete validation of the Institute's point of view and strategy.

Without PIPSC, this smart, novel approach to fight this Bill would not have seen the light of day. I am extremely proud of our role on C-317.

In Solidarity,

Gary Corbett