



International Union Of Operating Engineers

AFFILIATED WITH THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR AND CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 16, 2017

Contact

Steven Schumann

(613) 325-6433

sschumann@iuoe.org

Operating Engineers Applaud Federal Government's Commitment to Collective Bargaining

OTTAWA (June 16, 2017) – The International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) applauds the recent federal government action in support of fair and balanced labour relations in Canada. Through the adoption of Bill C-4 and the ratification of ILO Convention 98 on the “*Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining*,” the current government is delivering on its promise to support Canadian skilled workers as they work to grow the Canadian economy.

“As proud trade union members representing tens of thousands of hard-working Canadians, we appreciate the government’s actions and are committed to working with the government to ensure that Canada continues to have fair and balanced labour relations,” says Lionel Railton, IUOE Canadian Director.

“Every worker deserves to work in an environment where they have an active say in their safety, security, and well-being. Today we acknowledge and celebrate government actions that help us achieve that goal.”

Bill C-4 repeals the punitive anti-labour laws passed by the Conservative government in the previous session through private members’ bills C-377 and C-525. It restores the bargaining certification process that existed prior to June 15, 2015, and does away with unreasonable financial disclosure rules imposed on labour unions.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention 98 sets out rights for workers to organize and to negotiate collective agreements. It protects all workers from anti-union discrimination, including job termination for participating in union activities. By ratifying the convention, Canada recognizes the crucial role that strong unions and collective bargaining rights have in reducing inequality, protecting workers, and improving labour and working conditions.

###

The International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) represents 400,000 working men and women across the United States and Canada. Members of the IUOE are primarily operating engineers, who work as heavy equipment and crane operators, mechanics, and surveyors in the construction industry, and stationary engineers, who work in operations and maintenance in building and industrial complexes, as well as a number of job classifications in the petrochemical industry.