



January 12, 2007

Mr. Gary Goodyear, M.P. (Cambridge)
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Goodyear:

I would like to take this opportunity to express the deep concerns that the Cambridge Chamber of Commerce has with Private Member's Bill C-257, *An Act to Amend the Canada Labour Code (replacement workers)*. As you are aware, Bill C-257, introduced into the House of Commons on May 04, 2006 by Mr. Richard Nadeau, Bloc Québécois MP for Gatineau, is currently being studied by the House of Commons Standing Committee on Human Resources, Social Development and Status of Persons with Disabilities. If C-257 is not defeated in Committee, we expect that C-257 will be voted upon at third reading in the House of Commons in the spring of 2007.

It is our opinion that any change to the Canada Labour Code, especially an amendment that alters the relationship between employers and employees, deserves extensive study in order to fully understand the impacts on Canadian society and the economy. As stated in section 2.4 of Bill C-257, the Bill would prevent uninterrupted provision of services that affect seniors, families, small businesses and the Canadian economy-services like 911; health and emergency services; transportation services (air, rail, marine, and road) and news and weather warnings in the event of a storm or tragedy. It is to the benefit of both parliamentarians and Canadians to have a full understanding of the impacts of amending Part I of the Canada Labour Code through Private Member's Bill C-257.

The Cambridge Chamber of Commerce fully supports the rights of parliamentarians to change public policy through Private Member's Bills. However, Part I of the Canada Labour Code was developed through extensive consultation with both business and labour between 1995 and 1999. The result is a labour code that provides balance to both employers and employees. C-257 would significantly disrupt this balance and would be to the detriment to all Canadians. As such, the Cambridge Chamber of Commerce would like to count on you in defeating Bill C-257. Attached is a statement that outlines our concerns with C-257, and we would be pleased to meet with you to further discuss our concerns.

Sincerely,

Greg Durocher

Greg Durocher
President/CEO
Cambridge Chamber of Commerce