



CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
BRITISH COLUMBIA DIVISION

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November 27, 2007

The Honourable Gordon Campbell, Premier
Government of British Columbia
Room 156, Parliament Buildings
Victoria BC V8V 1X4

Fax: 250-387-0087

Dear Premier Campbell:

Re: Whistleblowers Protection Act

I am writing to you about the *Whistleblowers Protection Act*.

CUPE BC strongly supports NDP MLA Shane Simpson's private member's bill, the *Whistleblowers Protection Act*, and calls on the government of British Columbia to back this legislation.

The legislation would provide protection for whistleblowers seeking to inform public employers, government and the public of wrongdoing, gross government mismanagement, illegal acts and threats to the health and safety of people or the environment. It protects the public interest.

Under the proposed legislation, whistleblowers working for government bodies would be protected for taking personal risk to improve workplace safety, government accountability and security in society. Whistleblowers provide a critical service in our workplaces, and in fact, our democracy.

In B.C., this would potentially affect tens of thousands of CUPE members working in a variety of areas, including the education system from kindergarten to university, in health care, and in community social services.

Before being elected as the government of BC, the Liberal Party pledged to be the most open, transparent and accountable government in Canada. It is difficult to be that when the government does not protect whistleblowers from demotions, firings and other reprisals.

In 2005, the Canadian Association of Journalists criticized British Columbia's government for leaving whistleblowers unprotected. It is time for the government to enact legislation that fulfills its campaign promise from seven years ago.

In recent years, Vancouver's city council, as well as Richmond and Surrey, have recognized the role that whistleblowers play in the public interest by pursuing whistleblower protection for municipal employees.

Whistleblowers like Nancy Olivieri are rightly considered to be heroic in taking personal risks to ensure public safety. Whistleblowers have also helped us understand more about what went wrong with Enron and Worldcom.

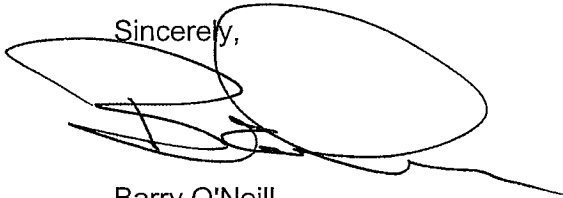
Barry O'Neill, President
Mark Hancock, Secretary-Treasurer

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Whistleblower protection legislation empowers accountability and encourages those operating government to respect the trust the public places in them.

The *Whistleblowers Protection Act* will help ensure responsible government by allowing its employees, contractors and private sector employees the freedom to act in the public's best interest. There is no justifiable reason to impede this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Barry O'Neill", written over a large, loopy oval shape.

Barry O'Neill
President
CUPE BC Division

BON/LW
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cc. Carole Taylor, Minister of Finance
Shane Simpson, MLA, Vancouver-Hastings
Carole James, Leader of the Official Opposition

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