

MEDIA ADVISORY

January 14, 2014

Bills 45 and 46 are Anti-democratic

The Executive of the Mount Royal Faculty Association endorses the challenges that two public sector unions are mounting against new provincial labour legislation.

The United Nurses of Alberta has filed a statement of claim with the Alberta Court of Queen's Bench that Bill 45, in banning strikes and engaging in any conduct that constitutes a strike threat, infringes on freedom of expression and freedom of association, which are guaranteed by the Canadian Charter of Rights.

The Alberta Union of Public Employees has also filed a statement of claim against Bill 45, and is challenging Bill 46 at the Labour Relations Board as well. Public sector employees lost the right to strike in 1977, when it was replaced by binding arbitration as a means of resolving collective bargaining disputes. Bill 46 now removes the right to binding arbitration and permits the government to impose a contract on its employees.

Compromises among competing interests are required for an effective democracy, and this cannot happen if one side is powerless.

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