

The Premier  
of Ontario

Legislative Building  
Queen's Park  
Toronto, Ontario  
M7A 1A1

Le Premier ministre  
de l'Ontario

Édifice de l'Assemblée législative  
Queen's Park  
Toronto (Ontario)  
M7A 1A1



April 28, 2005

Coalition for Democratic Labour Relations  
c/o 800-1255 Bay Street  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5R 2A9

Dear Coalition Members:

Thank you for your letter regarding Bill 144, the Labour Relations Statute Law Amendment Act, 2004. I appreciate your sharing your views, and those of coalition members, with me on this important issue.

I understand that you have met with the Honourable Christopher Bentley, Minister of Labour, and his staff to discuss your concerns about Bill 144, and your proposed amendments to the legislation. I trust the discussions shed more light on your specific concerns.

Fair and stable labour relations are key to Ontario's economic success. Bill 144, if passed, will restore powers to the Ontario Labour Relations Board (OLRB) to effectively deal with circumstances where an employer or a union contravenes the *Labour Relations Act, 1995*, during an organizing campaign. As you know, similar provisions were in place for many years before 1998. Evidence shows that remedial certification was rarely used by the OLRB, and only as an extraordinary measure. The remedial powers proposed by Bill 144 represent a balanced response to exceptional circumstances that may arise during certification campaigns. These powers are generally consistent with the approach taken in other Canadian jurisdictions.

... 2

- 2 -

Thank you again for writing. Be assured that our government will take your comments into consideration as we continue to take steps to promote workplace harmony and stability — vital to a prosperous and productive economy. Please accept my personal best wishes.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dalton McGuinty'.

Dalton McGuinty  
Premier

c: The Honourable Christopher Bentley