November 28, 2016

To All Local Unions

Greetings,

Re: Bill C-27

You will find attached a one page flyer on Bill C-27: new federal legislation for Target Benefit Plans (TBPs).

This legislation, despite minor differences, has the same objective as the Conservative government’s proposal in 2014. It is a smoke and mirrors scheme that opens the way for employers to attack good defined benefit (DB) pension plans in federally regulated workplaces.

The agenda is to allow employers to convert DB plans for current employees to TBPs. We are not opposed to TBPs on a “go forward” basis but the Federal government is opening the way for employers to convert the DB plans for current members to TBPs. Furthermore, all past benefits and retiree’s pensions could be converted.

The new legislation outlines that consent would be required before a conversion could take place but Unions will face significant pressure in collective bargaining to convert our DB plans to TBPs. I encourage you to distribute the flyer attached to units throughout your local with federally regulated DB plans.

We are encouraging members to write to Federal Finance Minister Bill Morneau, and also to their local MP to demand withdrawal of C-27. Visit unifor.org/stopC27 for a draft letter and email information. Please include our Pensions and Benefits Department on any emails by copying pensionsandbenefits@unifor.org.

If you would like additional information or clarity to respond to member questions, please contact National Representative David Leacock from our Pensions and Benefits Department. David can be reached by email at david.leacock@unifor.org.

In Solidarity,

Jerry Dias
National President

cc: Leadership, NEB, National Representatives, David Leacock
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