

## UPDATE on Bill C-377 & C-525 – October 22, 2013

**As you know, Stephen Harper prorogued Parliament to avoid dealing with questions about the many scandals that his government is embroiled in. Parliament was finally reconvened last week and New Democrats plan on holding him to account.**

Many of you are likely wondering what is going to happen with Bill C -377 and Bill C-525. Although government bills die on the order paper, private members' bills such as C- 377 and C -525 survive a prorogation. The only difference is that they must start at the beginning of the stage where they were at prior to prorogation.

In the case of [Bill C -377 \(this bill aims to force unions to disclose a considerable amount of sensitive information\)](#), the bill was at the Senate report stage. Since the House of Commons was unable to receive the report, the Senate is expected to resume its work at the beginning of this stage. Procedures may further delay the return of the Bill to the house. As you know, the Senate had passed a series of amendments that significantly change the bill and which Stephen Harper had already expressed his opposition. **Unless unanimous consent is found in the Senate, this amendment procedure will need to be repeated. If the amendments are re-adopted, a standoff between the house and the Senate is expected to follow. We will keep you informed of developments in this regard.**

With respect to [Bill C- 525 \(this bill aims to restrict the ability of workers to organize a union\)](#), the prorogation has had little effect. **The first hour of debate on second reading will take place on October 29 at 17:30.** New Democrats believe that all Canadians should have the right to access collective bargaining through a fair, democratic process and we will fight to protect this right.

**Both C-377 and C-525 are outrageous examples of this Conservative Government using “private members” bills to do their dirty work. But Canadians know that this legislation comes from the top.**

Going forward, we will keep you informed of developments on both C-377 and C-525.

In solidarity,

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