

A Submission to the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs by an individual on Bill C-377

Please allow me to introduce myself;

My name is Jeremy Arney, I live in Victoria BC, where I have 3 children, 5 grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

I am semi-retired, working part time to put food on my table etc.,

I am also the Leader of the Canadian Action Party for which I ran in 2008 for the riding currently held by Ms. May of the Green Party.

I have read Bill C-377 and although I have not been able to watch all the televised sessions of your committee – I am sure you can understand that there is a lot going on right now with C-51, C-50 and others including C-377 and of course we are preparing for an election.

It seems that there are conflicting views about the constitutionality of this Bill and whether or not it would pass a court challenge based on the fact that it is a bill to amend the income tax act to include more information concerning Union expenditures when in fact there is disclosure already at the provincial level of government.

Perhaps Michel Bastardache summed it up best from what I did manage to hear by saying he believed it was constitutionally sound because it was to do with taxation, but the intent of the Bill was suspect.

If we look at 3 (a) (i) (ii) B (i) i1)(iii)(1v)(v)(vii) this information is already provided to provincial governments and union members by the unions so to insist that it be done again in a federal government format is adding costs and red tape which this administration is trying to do away with C-21 (Red Tape Reduction Act) unless of course that Bill only refers to businesses.

3 Subs (vii.1)(viii.1)(xi) and (xx) (5) all refer to time spent and costs involved in political activities, including that of subcontractors and their employees. It does not specify whether that time or those costs are only referring to Union political activities or if they also include personal political activities. In either case to have that information placed on an open government web site is releasing information which should be private unless counter balanced by equal transparency about corporate lobbying costs and time spent by company executives and administration MPs on that lobbying and their political activities.

Of course all this would be moot if there was a sister bill which required the same information, facts, figures and names of all those who work for the administration of any company which employs union workers along with their political activities and contributions to political parties.

To sum up my thinking on this Bill is that it is an attack upon a group of Canadians who do not agree with the current administration philosophy in part because that administration makes no bones about their dislike of Unions, and indeed most Canadians for that matter, and in part because they are considered to be a threat to their re-election.

I regret that motives for bills such as this and C-50, and C-51 as well as the Fair Elections Act are all designed to assist one party to retain power, whilst removing the rights and freedoms of ordinary Canadians to exercise their civil liberties and duties without big brother's assistance, hindrance or criticism.

Thank you

*Jeremy Arney
#6, 2931 Craigowan Rd
Victoria BC
V9B 1N1
250-216-5400.*