

CEC Bulletin

(April, 2008)

CEC Representation on the ILO Governing Body

Dear Members:

I am writing to CEC members to advise that Andrew Finlay (CEC / Scotiabank) is retiring from the ILO's Governing Body at the end of his term in June this year.

Andrew has been a member of the GB since 2004, following a number of years representing the CEC and business on ILO matters, including as Spokesperson at the annual International Labour Conference in 2003 and 2006. Andrew will continue his work with the CEC (and Scotiabank), including his active role on the Minister of Labour's Advisory Council on International Labour Affairs. The GB consumes 4-5 weeks of meetings a year, and a great deal of preparatory work. Andrew reports that it has been a tremendous experience, but it is time to pass the torch.

Brian Burkett (Heenan Blaikie) has volunteered to replace Andrew on the GB for the next term. Brian has done extensive work for the CEC on matters of CSR, hemispheric social policy (the Summit of the Americas Process), and public policy consultation and development.

Mr. Burkett is co-author of the book *Canadian Labour and Employment Law for the U.S. Practitioner*, published by BNA Books of Washington, D.C. He is an Associate Editor of the *Canadian Labour and Employment Law Journal* and a member of the International Association of Labour Law Journals. He is also a part-time professor in labour and employment law at the University of Toronto's Centre for Industrial Relations.

Brian was awarded Martindale-Hubbell's highest rating ("AV") for his skills and sense of ethics. Since 1999, he has been recognized as a "Leading Lawyer" in the annual *Guide to the Leading 500 Lawyers in Canada* published by Lexpert/American Lawyer Media. He is also recognized as a leading practitioner in the field of management labour and employment law in *The International Who's Who of Management Labour and Employment Lawyers* (Fourth Edition) and *The Best Lawyers in Canada*, 1st edition (2006).

Brian and his team at Heenan Blaikie have made tremendous contributions to the intellectual capital of the CEC, and to ensuring that the CEC carries on and enhances its historical role as a constructive contributor on Canadian international labour policy.

Through informal consultations between Andrew and the International Organization of Employers, the IOE have expressed support for Brian being elected to the GB, and in particular look forward to Brian playing an important role on the Committee on Freedom of Association (CFA). This latter interest is important to Canadian business in light of the Supreme Court of Canada's decision in BC Health Services, in which the Court gave considerable weight to ILO standards and the CFA in particular. Andrew advises that Brian should have the full support of the employer group at the IOE and on GB.

Andrew and I fully endorse Brian taking on a seat at the GB starting in June of this year, and invite CEC members to join us in this endorsement.

Finally, on behalf of the entire CEC membership I would like to acknowledge and thank Andrew for the tremendous dedication and hard work done on our behalf in the variety of CEC roles that he has taken on, most particularly on the ILO's Governing Body. There is no question that during his tenure on the GB, the presence and stature of Canadian employers within the international community grew significantly. Andrew will remain active (very) in the CEC and continue to provide an exceptional contribution to the employer voice on international labour issues.

Regards,



Stephen Bedard
Chair
Canadian Employers Council