



NEWS RELEASE

Wednesday, April 29, 2009

10:30 A.M.

*** For immediate release**

Not the time to further cripple our economy

The economy is taking a battering. Each day we hear that some sector of the economy is struggling to keep pace, avoid layoffs and evade the devastation to families and communities across the country that this downturn is bringing.

One has to ask, "Is this the time to enact legislation that could bring a faltering economy to its knees?"

This could be the result of the passage of legislation – or the adoption of precedent-setting motions - by the House of Commons that would restrict the use of replacement workers by federally-regulated employers during a strike.

The services provided by federally-regulated employers are essential to keeping our businesses – and the nation's economy – working. That is why Parliament has acted in the past to legislate the end to work stoppages in federally-regulated industries, as was the case in 2007 during a labour dispute in the railway sector.

In the event of a strike, it would not take long for the impact of companies providing transportation, telecommunications and financial services having to shut down to be felt by the thousands of businesses – and millions of Canadians - who depend upon them in every community across Canada.

If ever there was an inappropriate time to inflict further harm on the businesses and consumers that depend upon the providers of critical infrastructure, this is it! A disruption of the services these companies provide would be devastating to Lethbridge putting up yet another hurdle as we try to survive in the current economic downturn.

It is the hope of the Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce that Members of Parliament will work to defeat any legislation, or motion in support of, banning the use of replacement workers by critical infrastructure providers.

Whether you are a business owner, employee, or consumer this legislation could affect you.

What can you do? Let your Member of Parliament know that this kind of legislation could be devastating to our community and should be defeated.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dennis Hatt".

Dennis Hatt
President, Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce

** For further information, please contact Dennis Hatt by calling the Chamber office at 403-327-1586.*