

The anti-scab Bill has been adopted. Now what?

Spirits were high on Parliament Hill after 167 MPs voted in favour of Bill C-257 on October 25 and sent it to a committee of the House of Commons. The Bill will be coming back to a vote that could make it illegal for employers under the Canada Labour Code to use scabs during labour disputes.

“This is really significant,” says PSAC National Vice-President Patty Ducharme. “We have overcome a hurdle that was impossible in our past attempts to have this legislation adopted. But now that this Bill will be sent to a committee for review before a final vote, there is still a huge amount of work in front of us. We have to continue to work towards this very important modification to the Canada Labour Code to help provide a more level playing field between workers and employers.”

According to Ducharme, “The relentless work done by PSAC activists, working alongside other unions, made it possible to sway many MPs who would have voted against Bill C-257 otherwise. We were told that the lobbying done by PSAC members during the days that preceded the vote made a difference.”

During the vote, more than 75 PSAC members were in attendance in the Gallery. There were some members of the Ekati diamond mine who recently had to deal with scabs during their strike. In addition to several PSAC Board members, most of the Customs Excise Union Douanes Accise Executive and participants of the PSAC Union Development Program in the National Capital Region were also present. The applause and the shouts of joy that followed the adoption of the Bill were so spontaneous and so loud that security guards at the House of Commons didn't know how to react!

Check the PSAC website in the coming weeks for an update including more information about follow up actions.

If you want to know how your MP voted, visit the [Parliamentary website](#).