



**B.C.
FEDERATION
OF LABOUR
(CLC)**

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Jim Sinclair
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August 7, 2009

VIA COURIER

Debra McPherson, President
BC Nurses' Union
4060 Regent Street
Burnaby, BC V5C 6P5

Dear Sister McPherson:

As you know the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) has ruled that the British Columbia Nurses' Union (BCNU) is conducting a raid by attempting to recruit members for the BCNU at the expense of CLC affiliated unions.

The Officers of the B.C. Federation of Labour met Tuesday, August 4, 2009 to discuss the CLC's findings and the decision to suspend the BCNU from participation in Labour Councils and education programs of the Canadian Labour Congress.

We endorse and support the calls of the CLC and most recently by the Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions, and we urge you to cease raiding other affiliates immediately as outlined in the letter from Brother Georgetti to the BCNU.

At the B.C. Federation of Labour Officers meeting, at which a BCNU representative was present, a resolution was passed to comply with the CLC decision. Consequently, the BCNU is suspended from participation in the activities of the B.C. Federation of Labour.

Trade unionists, including those represented by the BCNU, have worked tirelessly for a vibrant, fully-funded, public health care system. Together, we share the goal of strengthening public health care and ensuring that both levels of government provide sufficient funding to ensure the provision of top-notch patient care. As just one example, the BCNU, BCFED, BCGEU, CUPE, HEU, and HSA, have worked closely together to protect universal public health care.

In the past few weeks, the BC Government has announced another round of devastating cuts to funding for public health care. It is a critical time in BC – a time when health care unions and all unions need to stand shoulder-to-shoulder to defend our high-quality public health care system.

The BCNU's current effort to raid the membership of other health care unions in BC plays directly into the hands of the BC government. This division hurts not only our movement, but ultimately patients who will suffer as the BC government cuts health programs and staff that are critical to patient care. The solidarity of the labour movement and our ability to act collectively are fundamental to protecting and building health care.

Brother Georgetti has offered the full services of the Canadian Labour Congress to the BCNU. In addition, the B.C. Federation of Labour and its Officers are available to assist your union in reaching a resolution to this matter that is consistent with the democratic principles of trade unionism and ensures that the BCNU can stand proudly within the house of labour.

We are seeking a meeting between the BCNU Executive Board and the Officers of the B.C. Federation of Labour to discuss an effective resolution of this matter and restoration of the BCNU's status within the B.C. Federation of Labour and the Canadian Labour Congress.

In solidarity,



JIM SINCLAIR
President



ANGELA SCHIRA
Secretary-Treasurer

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Andy Ross, COPE
Kay Sinclair, PSAC
Susan Spratt, CAW
Darryl Walker, BCGEU

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cc: BCFL Officers
BCFL Executive Council Members
Labour Councils
Ken Georgetti, President, CLC
Linda Silas, President, Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions