



**May 11, 2015**

**CATCA issued the following press release today:**

**New government Bill violates Charter rights of federal public service employees**

On May 7th, the Harper government tabled Bill C-59. If passed, it would authorize Treasury Board to eliminate sick leave provisions of all federal public service employees without having to bother negotiating the changes.

Peter Duffey, president of the Canadian Air Traffic Control Association (CATCA/Unifor Local 5454), representing Canada's 2000 air traffic controllers, condemned this unprecedented move as an attack on the Charter guarantees of freedom of association of all Canadians. In addition to representing air traffic controllers across Canada, CATCA represents Transport Canada safety inspectors within the federal public service who would be directly affected by this bill.

"Canadians are sadly becoming accustomed to this government ignoring the Charter, the decisions of the Supreme Court, and internationally recognized labour rights," said Mr. Duffey. "Tearing up freely negotiated provisions like sick leave is a dangerous new step in that direction. And putting financial pressure on our air traffic control inspectors to come in to work when they're not feeling well? We won't let that happen."

CATCA will consult with its members, as well as unions representing other public service employees, as to the means of fighting and defeating this latest attack on their constitutional rights.

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CATCA /Unifor Local 5454 represents Canada's air traffic controllers and employees of Transport Canada responsible for overseeing the safety and regulation of Canada's national air traffic control system.

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