



Karen Caig
1st Vice President

Jay Thompson
Local President

Jim Connelly
Financial Secretary

Political action report

June 25th 2017

Sisters and Brothers

There is so much happening on the political front from Municipal, Provincially, Federally and World politics that it was very difficult to pick one issue to focus on so I've decided on the new laws and legislation that the federal and provincial government's are trying to implement

The Trudeau government has started the process of legalizing cannabis and has set July 1st 2018 as the date that its is supposed to be legal.

Some of the legislation that the liberals are trying to push though regarding the legalization of Cannabis is very concerning;

They have introduced legislation that gives the police more sweeping powers without accountability such as the impaired driving law that will allow police to come to your residence and demand that you give a blood or breath sample without a warrant or a reason, The law as it stands now Police cannot pull you over and ask for a breath test unless they have reasonable grounds to do so, They will now be able to stop you for any reason and demand a breath test not including check stops.

The police will also be given the right to demand a DNA sample without grounds or a warrant.

Constitutional Lawyers are very concerned with these sweeping powers that law enforcement will have as once the police have taken your DNA what are they going to do with it?

Currently, Police need a warrant to ask for blood or DNA for specific purposes such as Drugs, Alcohol, or sex and other crimes where DNA has been left behind.

With the new legislation, will the police be "targeting" individuals? Will the DNA be put into a data bank without the person's knowledge or consent?

We should all pay attention to this and be very concerned that law enforcement will have no accountability in their actions because absolute power never ends well.

Some of the other legislation the Trudeau government wants to enact is Cannabis laws which is fine but a few of the laws are very harsh and strict, For example they want to make a law that once cannabis is legal if you are caught selling illegally or to anyone under 18 its an automatic 14 year sentence?



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This is not a deterrent and is going to fill our already overcrowded jails and prisons with people who are not necessarily criminals.

Now don't get me wrong, Impaired driving whether it be under the influence of either drugs or alcohol should not be tolerated and if caught the individual should be charged and let the courts decide there fate not the police!

It concerns me greatly that if you leave work and go through a check stop and the police let you go through you go home you crack a wobbly watch the news etc. an hour and a half later cops knock on your door and demand a breath sample and you are going to be required to provide it and then it's up to you to prove you didn't start drinking (or smoking) until you got home so you are guilty and have to prove your innocence! Laws like this are ripe for abuse!

In better news, The Alberta government has tabled legislation to upgrade and improve our labour laws, which have been against workers for 30 years.

Some of the laws that are hoped to be passed are unpaid leave to care for a sick or dying relative without fear of termination, compassion leave, getting rid of the secret ballot for union certification, Actually making company's accountable for putting workers in unsafe positions. They have also tabled a letter of agreement with OHS and municipal and the RCMP that if OHS suspects a criminal act was caused on a site they can bring in the police and criminal charges can be filed not only against the company but also the person who ordered the unsafe work to happen. The upcoming legislation doesn't cover everything and it did not address double breasting in the construction industry but it is a positive first step toward s better and more positive work environment for all workers in Alberta.

I have provided at the back a print out of some websites that may be of some interest to the members. Also if anyone wishes to look over the proposed labour law legislation let me know and I can send you the link

Thank you I submit my report

Steve Heatherington

Political Action Chair