

A Chronology: EC Conversion and C-10

- **January 15, 2009**
 - CAPE President, Claude Poirier, sends a [letter to Vic Toews, President of Treasury Board and James Flaherty Minister of Finance](#), explaining the significance of the EC conversion and inviting Mr. Toews and Mr. Flaherty to meet with him to discuss anticipated legislation that could restrict CAPE's ability to bargain EC classification conversion rates of pay.
- **January 23 and 26, 2009**
 - [A letter is sent to the Prime Minister and to the Leaders of the opposition parties](#) by the bargaining agent Chair of the National Joint Council on behalf of CAPE and 17 other federal public service bargaining agents.
 - The letter explains how special legislation that would set restrictions on collective bargaining is unnecessary. The letter demonstrates that agreements and arbitral awards in the current round of bargaining have been either identical or close to the wage adjustments imposed by Treasury Board in its final offer.
- **February 4, 2009**
 - Chris Charlton, NDP MP for Hamilton Mountain, invites CAPE's President to meet with her to discuss the matters raised in the President's letter of January 15 which was copied to all Members of Parliament.
 - CAPE's President and Executive Director meet with Ms. Charlton and explain why it is important to understand the long term effects of EC classification conversion on the members of the EC group.
 - Ms. Charlton will write a letter the next day to Vic Toews, the President of Treasury Board, urging Mr. Toews to review the letter addressed to him by CAPE on January 15 in order to ensure that "unintended consequences will not flow from your announced legislation on capping public sector wages."
 - The President of CAPE will also receive on February 10 a letter from Claude Bachand, Bloc Québécois MP for St-Jean expressing general support for CAPE's position.

- **February 6, 2009**

- Bill C-10 is tabled in the House of Commons.
- C-10 is the [Budget Implementation Act, 2009](#). It is an omnibus bill that includes the *Expenditure Restraint Act*.
- The [Expenditure Restraint Act](#) prohibits restructuring rates of pay during the restraint period (April 11, 2006 to March 31, 2011).
- The effect of the ban on CAPE is that it prohibits bargaining EC classification conversion rates of pay.
- The *Act* includes 3 exceptions to the prohibition, including the classification conversion of employees at the Border Services Agency.

- **February 11, 2009**

- CAPE inquires into the possibility of an appearance before the House of Commons' Standing Committee on Finance (FINA) which is responsible for the clause by clause review of Bill C-10.

- **February 20, 2009**

- The House of Commons' Standing Committee on Finance invites CAPE to appear as a witness the following Monday.

- **February 23, 2009**

- CAPE's President and Research Officer appear before the House of Commons' Standing Committee on Finance, which is reviewing C-10, the *Budget Implementation Act*.
- [CAPE's President argues that the EC conversion should be treated in the same way as the classification conversion of employees at the Border Service Agency.](#)
- At the invitation of Thomas Mulcair, the MP for Outremont and a member of the committee, the President provides a proposal for an amendment that would exempt EC classification conversion from constraints.

- **February 24, 2009**

- The standing committee considers the legislation clause by clause, including the amendment proposed by CAPE.
- [CAPE's amendment is represented, presented and explained by Thomas Mulcair.](#) Mr. Mulcair presents a second amendment on behalf of the Justice Council Association which represents the LA group. In addition, Mr. Mulcair adds a third amendment to cover the

possibility that either the EC or the LA amendment is deemed not receivable.

- The acting-Chair of the committee Massimo Pacetti, MP for Saint-Léonard-Saint-Michel, advises the committee that the information that he has received would indicate that the three amendments introduce new elements to Bill C-10 and are therefore not receivable. The acting-Chair asks for advice from government officials.
- Hélène Laurendeau, Assistant Secretary of Labour Relations and Compensation Operations of the Treasury Board Secretariat, volunteers comments. Ms. Laurendeau says:

"I am Hélène Laurendeau, Assistant Secretary, Treasury Board. I had a very quick look at the amendment and I can confirm to the committee that there was no oversight on how the groups were described. There may be some claims by various groups, but the ones that are described currently in the restraint act are properly described. The exceptions addressed the Border Services Agency only, because they had a classification reform that needed to be implemented."

- The acting-Chair determines that the amendments are not receivable. The determination is put to a vote of the committee members. The members of the Standing Committee on Finance vote in support of the acting-Chair's decision which results in a rejection of CAPE's amendment.
- FINA members vote as follows :

Name	Political Party	Riding	Vote
Maxime Bernier	CPC	Beauce	yes
Steven Blaney	CPC	Lévis-Bellechasse	yes
Daryl Kramp	CPC	Prince Edward-Hastings	yes
John McCallum	LPC	Markham-Unionville	yes
Bruce Stanton	CPC	Simcoe North	yes
Mike Wallace	CPC	Burlington	yes
Paul Crête	BQ	Montmagny-L'Islet-Kamouraska-Rivière-du-Loup	no
Jean-Yves Laforest	BQ	Saint-Maurice-Champlain	no
Thomas Mulcair	NDP	Outremont	no

- Then the committee members vote on article 393 (the *Expenditure Restraint Act*) without amendments.
- As a result of the vote no amendments are made to article 393, the *Expenditure Restraint Act*.
- FINA members vote as follows :

Name	Political Party	Riding	Vote
Maxime Bernier	CPC	Beauce	yes
Steven Blaney	CPC	Lévis-Bellechasse	yes
Daryl Kramp	CPC	Prince Edward-Hastings	yes
John McCallum	LPC	Markham-Unionville	yes
Bruce Stanton	CPC	Simcoe North	yes
Mike Wallace	CPC	Burlington	yes
Paul Crête	BQ	Montmagny-L'Islet-Kamouraska-Rivière-du-Loup	no
Jean-Yves Laforest	BQ	Saint-Maurice-Champlain	no
Thomas Mulcair	NDP	Outremont	no

- **March 4, 2009**

- Bill C-10 is re-introduced in the House of Commons where it passes third reading.
- The bill is introduced in the Senate.

- **March 5, 2009**

- After second reading in the Senate Bill C-10 is referred to the Senate's Standing Committee on National Finance.
- The same day, CAPE sends a request to appear before the committee. The committee will choose not to invite any witnesses except a selection of government officials.

- The committee includes the following Senators:

Callbeck, Catherine S. Lib. - (Prince Edward Island)
 Chaput, Maria Lib. - (Manitoba)
 Day, Joseph A. Lib. - (Saint John-Kennebecasis - New Brunswick)
 De Bané, Pierre Lib. - (De la Vallière - Quebec)
 Di Nino, Consiglio C - (Ontario)

Eggleton, Art Lib. - (Ontario)
Gerstein, Irving C - (Toronto - Ontario)
Mitchell, Grant Lib. - (Alberta)
Nancy Ruth C - (Cluny - Ontario)
Neufeld, Richard C - (Charlie Lake - British Columbia)
Ringuelette, Pierrette Lib. - (New Brunswick)
Rivard, Michel C - (The Laurentides - Quebec)

- **March 10, 2009**

- The committee invites the Minister of Finance, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance, officials of the Finance Department and, H  l  ne Laurendeau, Assistant Secretary of Treasury Board to answer questions.

- **March 11, 2009**

- The committee invites officials of Transport Canada, officials of Industry Canada, and three officials of Treasury Board: H  l  ne Laurendeau, Assistant Secretary; Dan Danagher, Executive Director, Program Integrity; and Carl Trottier, Senior Director, Collective Bargaining.

- **March 12, 2009**

- Third and final reading of Bill C-10 in the Senate. The bill passes without amendments.
- Royal assent is given by the Governor General at 7:20 pm.

- **March 13, 2009**

- CAPE continues its review of legal avenues of recourse.