

Representing the following affiliates:

Boilermakers
Lodge 146

Bricklayers
Local 1
Bricklayers
Local 2

Carpenters
Local 1325
Carpenters
Local 2103

Cement Masons &
Plasterers
Local 222

Construction and
General Workers
Local 92
Construction and
General Workers
Local 1111

Culinary Workers
Local 47

Electrical Workers
Local 424

Elevator Constructor
Local 122
Elevator Constructor
Local 130

Insulators
Local 110

Iron Workers
Local 720
Iron Workers
Local 725

Millwrights
Local 1460

Operating Engineers
Local 955

Painters
Local 177

Plumbers & Pipefitters
Local 488
Plumbers & Pipefitters
Local 496

Sheet Metal Workers
Local 8

Teamsters
Local 362

Alberta Building Trades Council

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ABT Applauds Supreme Court Ruling

For immediate release – June 9, 2007 – Edmonton, AB

The recent ruling of the Supreme Court of Canada etches in stone that trade unions are an integral part of the framework within our democratic society. “The federal and provincial governments must recognize this legitimacy and not manipulate the law of the land to marginalize the ability of trade unions to represent their members at all levels,” says Ron Harry, Executive Director of Alberta Building Trades (ABT) Council of Unions.

“This landmark decision will have wide reaching impact on future decisions across Canada and we are hoping that the decisions will impact on the outcome of ABT’s objection to the Alberta government’s use of Division 8. This action purported to permit Canadian Natural Resources Limited (CNRL) to impose a collective agreement (not negotiated by ABT affiliate unions) upon affiliate members working at the Horizon project,” says Harry.

The decision provides the framework to ensure collective agreements, federal or provincial, will be upheld and not eroded by other forms of legislation. “We need not look any further than the CNRL Horizon Project to see the reality of that erosion occurring,” says Harry. “The Supreme Court of Canada is the retaining wall of justice in this country and I applaud the High Court for their courage”. This ruling will trickle down throughout various areas of law and society in Canada and it is a model for labor law on a global level.”

The Court recognized that long before governments began making laws about it; collective bargaining by trade unions was a fundamental aspect of Canadian society. The building trades unions have been collectively bargaining for over a hundred years and we are delighted to finally have our history and experience recognized in this ruling,” said Harry. The affiliated construction trade unions in conjunction with the Council will aggressively rely on this decision.

For further information:

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