

(Complimentary English version of the French version letter signed April 12, 2006)

Dear Mr. Minister,

Congratulations on your appointment to the Cabinet. As Chair of the Canada Industrial Relations Board (CIRB) Client Consultation Committee and on behalf of its members, I am writing to request a meeting with you to discuss the Committee's report on the CIRB appointment process.

It is my understanding that the Chairperson of the CIRB, Mr. Warren Edmondson, has already provided you with copies of the report which the Committee submitted to him last Fall. Additional copies, along with copies of the Committee membership list, are attached for your ready reference. When preparing the report, the Committee reviewed the practices of certain other administrative tribunals with respect to assisting the responsible Minister to identify well qualified candidates for appointment by the Governor in Council. We also took account of the provisions of the Canada Labour Code, Part I, with respect to: consultation with labour and management on appointments; the requirement for those appointed to have experience and expertise in industrial relations; and, the role of the CIRB Chairperson as chief executive officer of the Board.

Based on their extensive collective experience in both federal and other Canadian jurisdictions, Committee members concluded that "labour boards work best, acquit their legislative responsibilities most efficiently and maintain credibility, when the communities they serve have had input to their composition." We then formulated a proposed process applicable to the CIRB which would provide for such input while preserving the Minister's prerogative to nominate persons for appointment by the Governor in Council. The Committee now requests the opportunity to meet with you to discuss its proposed process.

The CIRB Client Consultation Committee consists of members nominated by the principal management and trade union organizations active in the federal jurisdiction, that is, Federal Employers in Transportation and Communication (FETCO), the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) and the Confederation of National Trade Unions (CNTU). It also includes members of the specialized labour law bar familiar with proceedings under Part I of the *Code*. Although the Committee comprises a total of ten members plus myself, we would propose a smaller representative group to meet with you.

The Committee will be grateful for your positive response to its request. I would be pleased to provide any further information you may require and am available to discuss with your staff the timing, location and other logistics for a meeting.

Sincerely,

Michael McDermott

Enclosures