



# Provincial Election 2007



## Labour Law Reform Anti-Scab Legislation

In 1992, the NDP government in Ontario introduced and passed anti-scab legislation for the province. Its purpose was to reduce conflict during legal work stoppages. The employer was prevented from bringing scabs into the workplace, but could transfer work to another location. This provision fulfilled its purpose: work stoppage conflict was dramatically reduced.

But when the Conservative government of Mike Harris took power, they scrapped the anti-scab legislation and picket-line conflict returned. The use of replacement workers increased while labour-management relations took a nose dive. The Liberals, under Dalton McGuinty, made it clear they had no intention of restoring the legislation or anything similar.

In the Spring of 2006, the Ontario NDP introduced Bill 192, Labour Relations Amendment Act (Replacement Workers) to bring back labour stability and even the playing field for workers and employers. Similar long-standing provincial legislation in BC and Quebec has seen the number and length of labour disputes decline while economic investment in those provinces has soared. The Bill received support from members of all three parties at Second Reading, but the only leader present for the vote was the NDP's Howard Hampton.

Unfortunately, the Liberals often let Bills pass second reading, only to let them languish in committee because they do not really want to pass them into law. That was the fate of Bill 192. In June 2007, McGuinty prorogued the Legislature without special provision to carry over any Bills to the next session, causing all business still on the Order Paper to die.

### **Ask your Local Candidates:**

Do you support reinstating an anti-scab provision in Ontario?