

Association of University and College Employees

The AIB Challenged

Melody Rudd - Provincial Sec/Treas

B.C. Teachers Federation have challenged the legality of the AIB rules in B.C. on two grounds - 1) the legislature was improperly denied opportunity to approve adoption of federal AIB rules in B.C. and 2) the agreement was never filed under the B.C. Regulations Act. The provincial minister of finance signed the pending anti-inflation agreement with Ottawa. Another argument presented was that the minister of finance has no power to make the agreement apply retroactively.

The hearing took place before the Supreme Court last week and the Chief Justice Nemetz is waiting for a ruling on a similiar case in Manitoba before he rules.

If the teachers win their case it will invalidate the roll-back decision we have received.

No quick end to controls?

Melody Rudd

The Vancouver Province reported on February 3rd that Finance Minister Donald Macdonald stated that wage and price controls will definitely continue beyond "the next month or so". In the same article it was reported that Premier Bill Bennett indicated B.C. might keep some form of controls over the public sector to "make sure the public sector doesn't lead the private sector".

It seems the controls are coming off but not off us. The government has made it illegal for AUCE to win wage parity with other unionized workers and plans to continue this line in the future. Our protest at this time will have special significance on ending the controls and on any new legislation.

Motivation for not complying with the AIB rollback:

Jay Hirabayashi

I strongly urge that AUCE, Local 1 decide collectively not to comply with the AIB rollback decision on grounds of principle (not principal).

I stood in the rain last year and was threatened and insulted by students for supporting a basic human rights principle of equal pay for equal work. It is the AIB that is threatening and insulting me now.

Under no other system of justice does one appeal a decision to the same authority that rendered that decision. It is a flagrant conflict of interest. Yet all AIB appeals are decided upon by the AIB.

The AIB further puts one in jeopardy for signing (with agreement between employer and employee) a contract in good faith that it is a legal and binding document.

I am sensitive when human rights are trampled on. I am an immigrant from a country that put my father in prison for standing up for his "guaranteed rights" as a citizen. That country was the United States. In this country tens of thousands of people of my ethnic background were put in detention camps for years during the last war. They are still waiting for reparations for their loss of dignity, livelihood and property. The same type of legislation that put them in camps gave the AIB its powers.

Human rights mean nothing if they can be taken away from you by government whim. Only strong public vigilance and action can keep a headstrong government from such abuse of power. Complying with the AIB means that we are a union of lambs in a nation of sheep.