



# AMALGAMATED TRANSIT UNION CANADIAN COUNCIL SYNDICAT UNI DU TRANSPORT CONSEIL CANADIEN

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October 9, 2014

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

**Subject: Bill S-221 A Bill to Amend the Criminal Code for Assaults on Operators**

I want to take this opportunity to provide you with an update on the Operator Assault Bill. As stated last Friday October 3, 2014, our round table meeting in Toronto with Senator Runciman and MP Corneliu Chisu regarding Bill S-221 went excellent. There were 19 affiliate members along with guests from Local 113 and Unifor. Prior to the Senator and MP's arrival, we discussed a solid plan on how to move forward to better insure our chances of being successful in having this Bill pass through the House of Commons.

The plan was to go back to our respective areas and contact our elected officials seeking all party support, but even more important was to encourage our MP's to support the Bill without amendments. The Canadian Council would provide support for any Local looking for assistance in contacting their area MP's and discussing our goals with them. This was in anticipation of a second reading in the House in November. Our goal was to have a limited debate so that it could go to a voice vote within the first hour, thereby sending it to committee in preparation for a third reading. If debate goes over one hour, it automatically gets set aside for a future session and it is difficult to know when it would be placed back on the agenda. This could put us at risk of it being delayed and not being voted on before an election is called in 2015. An even bigger threat would be an amendment. Any amendment to Bill S-221 would effectively kill our chances of it going through altogether.

Since last Friday's meeting we have reconfirmed with MP Ralph Goodale's office, the Liberal Party's support of the Bill as is, with a commitment to limit debate so it can go to committee without amendments.

Today I was able to speak with NDP MP Alex Boulerice's office and they too have just confirmed they will support the Bill within the timelines and with no amendments.

The Block and the Green party have also agreed to support it and of course, Brent Rathgeber also did a tremendous amount of work on this issue prior to becoming an Independent.

This gives us "all party" support and provides an excellent opportunity for this Bill to be sent to committee as is.

***This will be a pleasant surprise to all and particularly to those that were able to attend last Friday's round table. Last night I was able to confirm that Bill S 221 will receive second reading tomorrow, October 10, 2014.***

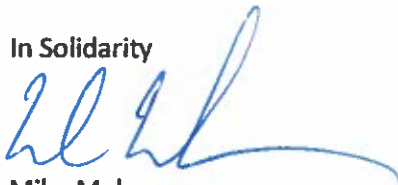
This is wonderful news for us and is a testament to all of your dedication and commitment to this cause.

I think standing in front of our members and telling them a Court must take into consideration the fact that you are operating a public vehicle as a mitigating factor in sentencing, will be a wonderful moment for each of us. Bill S-221 will be a great tool to help in reducing the frequency of assaults and equally important, no longer will our members and their families feel dehumanized or marginalized when some assailant assaults them and has to stand before a judge.

I would love to be in attendance to witness this first hand but am committed to meet with PBA Jim Yakubowski and Local 615 in a show of solidarity during their Lock Out. However, when we are not at the rally, I will be glued to CSPAN in hopeful anticipation that Bill S 221 will be sent without amendment to Committee tomorrow in preparation for a third and final reading and a vote!!

On behalf of the Canadian Council Executive Board, I want to thank everyone for your ongoing support on this extremely important matter.

In Solidarity

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mike Mahar', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mike Mahar