

MEMBER COMMUNICATION 27

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DEAR COLLEAGUES

On Friday, 01 June 2012, the Ontario Court of Appeal (OCA) released its decision in Mounted Police Association of Ontario (MPAO) v. Canada. The OCA overturned a lower Court's decision which ruled the *Charter* rights of RCMP officers were violated by regulations forbidding a union. (Read the complete ruling at <http://www.ontariocourts.ca/decisions/2012/2012ONCA0363.pdf>.)

Since that time, members of the Mounted Police Professional Association of Canada (MPPAC) have met to discuss the ruling. The MPPAC Executive is disappointed with the ruling and has learned that the BCMPPA and the MPAO, litigants in the OCA ruling, intend to appeal the ruling to the Supreme Court of Canada. The RCMP remains the only major police force in Canada not able to exercise its constitutional right to collective bargaining. The current system of labour relations in the RCMP is run entirely by management and lacks any means of ensuring accountability or producing a legally binding collective agreement.

This is an issue that affects all organized labour groups across Canada. The National Union of Public and General Employees (NUPGE) publicly called this a “dreadful decision” (see <http://www.nupge.ca/content/5063/court-ruling-banning-rcmp-joining-union-dreadful-decision-nupge>). MPPAC is seeking the support of the NUPGE and other organized labour groups to assist us in our march to the Supreme Court of Canada.

LEGAL COSTS A FACTOR

We are asking all RCMP members to recognize the significance of the OCA ruling and to stand behind MPPAC financially, now more than ever, to advance this case to the Supreme Court. We will continue to fight for all RCMP members to attain the respect, recognition and fair benefits we all deserve—attributes that can only be achieved with independent representation, a collective agreement and a Legal Fund that serves the interests of RCMP members.

What is clear in this ruling is that money from the members' Legal Fund, which is controlled exclusively by the Staff Relations Representative (SRR) program, was used against the entire membership to stop us from exercising our fundamental rights of collective bargaining. To find out how you can terminate your automatic deduction toward the Legal Fund, see http://www.mppac.ca/Documents/HotTopics/Legal_Fund_Membership_Termination_Guide_1.2.pdf.

LET US BE YOUR ADVOCATE

MPPAC is fighting for the right to engage in collective bargaining through an independent association. Become a member today and let's put forward a collective voice on work related issues that concern us all.

The Interim Directors of the National Executive —

MPPAC | Mounted Police Professional Association of Canada
ACPMP | Association Canadienne de la Police Montée Professionnelle

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