



**Canadian Union
Of
Public Employees
Local 30**

Edmonton Civic Employees
EPCOR Water
Northlands Park
Town of Bon Accord
Village of Thorsby

10654 – 101 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T5H 2S1

(780) 426-6050
Fax: (780) 425-7753
e-mail: local30@shawbiz.ca
www.cupelocal30.ca

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INTEGRITY OF LABOUR BOARD VITAL TO LABOUR PEACE - CUPE 30

EDMONTON -- “As a union leader in this Province it greatly concerns me that a labour board structured to be an independent tribunal has violated the confidence of Unions and employers alike,” says Alex Grimaldi President of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Local 30.

“We rely on the Labour Relations Board to interpret the Code not manipulate it. And we certainly rely on the Labour board to be unbiased. That means not colluding with employers about taking away workers’ rights.”

Grimaldi was commenting on the recent exposure of collusion between the Government, the LRB, and health employers in the creation of Bill 27, which Grimaldi characterized as “probably the biggest anti-union legislation to be put in effect by the Klein government.”

“It is appalling to say the least, when a trust such as this is broken. “How are decisions made by the Board to be interpreted; how many decisions were influenced? If you control one situation how can we trust the Board to be diligent in future decisions.”

“This must be a concern to employers across Alberta as well, if the Board gives a certain amount of credence or latitude in one circumstance, what’s to say that in future instances it won’t manipulate the code to favour another party.”

Grimaldi backed up the call by the Alberta Federation of Labour for a public inquiry.

“I would insist that there be an independent inquiry called immediately, into this appalling breach of decorum,” said Grimaldi. “We need to be able to trust the Board in making unprejudiced decisions the next time we are up in front of it. How do you trust someone that seems to have betrayed you?”

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For more information call:
Alex Grimaldi, President, CUPE Local 30
Office: 426-6050
Cell: 918-3061
E-mail: alexgrimaldi@shawbiz.ca