

John Bail,  
CUPW Pacific Region  
999 Carnarvon Street  
New Westminister, BC V3M1G2

Dennis Watson  
27 9965 154 Street  
Surrey, B.C. V3T 7V8

March 8 2007

Brother Bail,

Thank you for your letter dated Feb 19 notifying me that Regional has withdrawn my termination grievance. I clearly object and hereby record my dissent.

Words cannot describe my shock and disgust. You knew my position from the beginning. My local filed the grievance and the Region raged on them for doing so. You refused to refer or recommend that the grievance be referred to arbitration yet National did anyways after Hamilton submitted a petition.

You and Pat Bertrand told me you rather face me in a failure to represent claim than face the employer in support of my grievance because you had a better chance of winning. That may well have been true but is shameful. The Union owns the grievance and a Labour Board run by conservative Government would clearly give the Union all the latitude in the world to withdraw any grievance. Nevertheless, one would hope that the Union's moral as well as legal duty to represent would include fighting the tide of terminations of Union activists the Corporation has embarked on as they strive to privatize and deregulate.

I remember when Trevor Berry took a great deal of political heat from the members of this Region when he abandoned us to spend all of his time on the Negotiating committee in Ottawa. He then blamed all the withdrawn grievances on Erin Paul claiming she was lazy and didn't like to work. Perhaps history is repeating itself and this region is ready for new leadership. Perhaps Ken Mooney is the one to bring a New Vision to the Pacific Region.

Until them, these are the facts. My local filed the grievance. Alvero DeLa Cruz and Anthony Holtzier pushed for it despite your opposition to it. Alvero was willing to argue the grievance himself and Anthony did not want to see this Region do to me what they did to his wife. Since it was Philippe Arbour, the National Grievance officer who referred this grievance and you not only didn't but have been actively campaigning against it ever since it was, I contend that only he has the authority to withdraw it.

You claim the grievance is not winnable. Interesting. Why then did I win my E.I. appeal even after Bob Jasmandise made and appearance and submission against me? That is when the Corporation panicked. Not only did they submit a four inch binder of exhibits that were past the time limits and not related to my discharge, they went to all that effort to seize my home computer to find more evidence against me.

If the Corporation was so sure they were going to win, they would not have panicked and gone to all that extra effort to find more evidence against me. You got Stan to write a legal opinion to support your position not mine and you had the Union pay for it. Shameful indeed.

I agree that wining my grievance would be a long shot. That is why I forfeited my right to a lawyer and was willing to have Alvero do it or represent myself simply because I knew there was a possibility I could win and get my job back.

It is not possible for this case to establish a bad precedent for others. You claim it is not winnable. The precedent is thereby established. We have therefore nothing to lose and everything to gain.

Withdrawing my grievance after Alvero had resigned and when Anthony was on holidays was just plain slimy. Which clearly is in harmony with your MO.

My local filed the grievance. Although Alvero has resigned from that position I would still like to get him to do that grievance or do it myself with the assistance of the new part time grievance officer, Tanya. If nothing else it would be good experience for her to see me get my ass kicked.

You said yourself you are pulling a David Emerson and not running for reelection next term. Then please, let's leave the bad politics aside and start representing our members which is what we get paid to do.

I hereby request that National over ride the Pacific Region one final time so that my grievance may proceed.

Sincerely,

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Dennis Watson

cc: Philippe Arbour, John Fehr, Evert Hoogers, Lynn Bue, George Floresco,  
Ken Mooney, Fraser Valley West LEC