



January 15, 2009

Mr. Vic Toews
President,
Treasury Board of Canada
140 O'Connor Street
Ottawa (ON) K1A 0R5

and

Mr. James Flaherty
Minister,
Finance Canada
140 O'Connor Street
Ottawa (ON) K1A 0R5

Dear Mr. Toews and Mr. Flaherty;

I am writing to you today to draw your attention to a possible unintentional effect of the special compensation legislation announced by the Government. This effect, which derives from a unique situation, risks creating an injustice for the 11,000 economists and other ES and SI employees of the Economics and Social Science Services Group. More precisely, it is the effect that the legislation could have on the ES and SI conversion to the EC professional employee group classification as well as the new EC pay rates to be worked out.

Classification conversions occur very rarely in the history of a professional group. In fact, the EC conversion expected in June 2009 is, since 1967, only the second for economists. These administrative measures represent a significant milestone as they create an opportunity to remedy injustices and solve problems that cannot be addressed otherwise. That was the case a few years ago with employees of the FS group and, according to the Treasury Board, such will also be the case for all professional groups in the coming years.

On behalf of your economists and their colleagues within ES and SI professional groups, I ask you to ensure that the proposed conversion be equitable under the special legislation, that the language of the legislation does not in any way hinder the negotiation of new pay rates as a result of the EC conversion and that the conversion itself be exempted under the legislation.

These very employees who provide the advice needed by the Government and Canadians to emerge from the current economic crisis, need your judicious support. Without your attention to the issues raised in this letter, 11,000 civil servants who will be the only ones affected by the special compensation legislation following the change in classification, will not enjoy the same rights and considerations as other civil servants.

I am available to meet with you at any time and will make it a point to provide any additional information you might require that will help you appreciate the importance of this matter. Please contact Donna Martin at 613-236-9181 to make arrangements for a meeting.

I thank you in advance for your attention and support.

Yours truly,



Claude Poirier
President

c.c. Members of Parliament