



SUBMISSION TO THE

**STANDING SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL
FINANCE IN REGARDS TO BILL C 9**

JUNE 23, 2010

Good Morning Mr. Chairperson and members of the committee. My name is David Shier. I am the President of the Canadian Nuclear Workers Council, Chairperson of the ICEM Nuclear Workers Unions Network, and a Staff Officer, Nuclear for the Power Workers Union.

The Canadian Nuclear Workers Council (CNWC) is a Council of Unions that represents members' working in the Canadian Nuclear Industry. A list of our member unions is attached on page 5.

The Council was created in 1993 to provide an organized focus and direction for the views and interests of unionized workers in all parts of a diverse industry that operates in five provinces across Canada. The Canadian Nuclear Workers' Council works to ensure that members' views are reflected in the ongoing debate about nuclear energy. The Council maintains a dialogue with other labour organizations to build support for our industry, explain nuclear issues, and address misconceptions about nuclear energy. A copy of our objectives is attached on page 4.

Today we are here to provide our views in regards to Bill C 9 and specifically as it relates to AECL. The majority of the Unions at AECL are members of the CNWC. As two of the other presenters here today are members of the CNWC I will dwell on a national and international perspective as they will address more specific areas.

The CNWC addressed the AECL issue in our latest newsletter and I have attached a copy of the article to our submission.

We suggest that Canadians will worry about the safety of Canada's nuclear technology should AECL become a fully private corporation. When it comes to benefits, the CNWC believes that a private AECL would not create jobs or maintain the current numbers of jobs, help the economy more, or be better able to sell our Canadian Nuclear technology around the world.

Forecast show that building new reactors in Canada and abroad could create thousands of jobs in Canada but we suggest that this will only be true if the Government of Canada maintains a major stake in AECL.

Reducing the financial exposure of taxpayers is an admirable goal but this must be balanced against the benefits that accrue to the Canadian economies by keeping CANDU technology a continuing Canadian success story. Other jurisdictions, such as France, Finland and Japan understand the importance their nuclear technologies have to their economies and that's why they get behind them. U.S. politicians are seeking to increase taxpayer backed loan guarantees for new nuclear plants by tens of billions of dollars. This supports U.S. technologies while providing reliable greenhouse gas emitting electricity. These governments clearly get the substantial economic and environmental benefits new nuclear power projects bring.

On the International scene AECL is a respected Company with a good product. The future of AECL being in limbo is creating a major problem for future orders for our CANDU Power Plants. We urge the Government to rectify this situation as soon as possible so we can once again say that Canada is open for business.

In conclusion we believe that the Canadian Government must maintain a major stake in AECL in order for our Canadian Nuclear Industry to survive.

We thank you for the opportunity to address your committee and we will be pleased to answer any questions that you may have.

Respectfully submitted.

David Shier

Objectives of the Canadian Nuclear Workers' Council

- to ensure that the interests and perspective of nuclear workers are heard by decision-makers;
- to strengthen the collective role of nuclear workers as a partner in their industry;
- to enhance public knowledge and understanding of nuclear issues by providing factual information; and
- to build support for the nuclear industry and its future potential.

Canadian Nuclear Workers' Council

**Canadian Union of Public Employees
Locals 1500 & 267**

**Communication, Energy & Paper Workers Union
Local 599-O & Local 48 – S**

International Association of Firefighters

**International Association of Machinist & Aerospace Workers
Local 608**

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

Power Workers Union

**Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada (PIPS)
CRPEG & WRPEG**

Public Service Alliance of Canada

**United Steel Workers
Locals 8914, 7806, 14193, 13713**

Chalk River Technicians and Technologist Union

Allied Trades Council

Society of Professional Engineers & Associates (AECL)

Hydro Quebec Professional Engineers Union