

Sent: Thursday, January 31, 2008 10:58 PM
To: john@labourwatch.com
Subject: unions

I always enjoy your contributions to the Financial Post, as I did the lunch hour session you put on with the Fraser Institute in the fall.

Before returning in retirement to U of Waterloo to work on a PhD in political philosophy, I spent many years as a high school teacher in Cambridge, where I live, and which of course thanks to legislative deals dating from the dim dark past, required that I be a member of OSSTF.

I never understood why Mike Harris never ended the closed shop, but simply contented himself with getting the principals out of the union. At the very least he could have subjected OSSTF to such crippling fines for their illegal strike in 1997 that they might never have recovered.

As it turns out, I refused to join that particular event - I couldn't believe that professional educators would simply walk off the job for no reason and ignore their students-and with another refusnik colleague showed up for work, which meant we pretty much had the school to ourselves.

I notice OSSTF is now trying to organize non faculty staff at UW-after all with declining ranks of teachers the union will have to expand their territory if the oligarchy is to continue to live in the style to which they have become accustomed. Legislative remedy may be less hazardous than banking on the judiciary, as you suggest, but it was also legislation which gave unions the clout that they now have.

Grahame Booker