

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### NCC Helps Two Ontario Employees Fight the Forced Dues Blues

(TORONTO, April 22, 2008) The National Citizens Coalition (NCC) today announced that they will be helping two Ontario workers, April Luberti and Jeff Birch, in their fight against big union bosses who refuse to respect their right to work.

In 2004, the federal civil service went on strike. While initially supporting the strike, over time both April and Jeff decided to exercise their legal right to return to work. As a result their union levied fines against them and eventually sued them for not immediately submitting payment. The Ontario Superior Court of Justice ruled in favour of their right to work. The Court went on to call the union fines “very unfair” and said that aspects of the union’s case were “pure speculation” with “no evidence.”

The Court barred any Ontario court from enforcing collection. Unwilling to accept no for an answer, the union has taken the case to the Ontario Court of Appeal.

“The NCC has offered to help April and Jeff raise funds for this court case because we believe that it is time to put an end to the intimidation tactics used by big union bosses,” says NCC President Peter Coleman. “Furthermore, we find it appalling that the union itself used the forced dues of its members to get a legal opinion ‘that clearly and without ambiguity’ concluded the union had ‘no legal ability to enforce the collection of fines.’ But the union fined April and Jeff and hundreds of others anyway. The union now uses these employee’s dues to pay for lawyers to sue them. There’s something wrong with this system.”

The NCC has always argued that big union bosses should not be able to use union dues as they see fit. The forced dues collected from unionized employees should not be used for the legal fees of union bosses to sue the people who pay them.

“The law supports an employee’s right to work,” added Coleman. “The unions are simply levying fines and suing even though they can’t collect in order to intimidate unionized workers who depend on their union. Unions are supposed to look out for their employee’s best interest, but instead they are using intimidation to get money it cannot collect through the courts.”

The NCC campaign to put an end to the **Forced Dues Blues** will use radio spots, newspaper advertisements and the internet to inform all Canadians about this unlawful use of union dues, and the intimidation tactics used by big union bosses to enforce fines that no court has ever ruled can be collected from union members.

The National Citizens Coalition is Canada’s largest organization that stands for the defence and promotion of free enterprise, free speech and government that is accountable to taxpayers. Founded in 1967, the NCC continues to fight for more freedom through less government. For more information about the NCC visit us online at [www.nationalcitizens.ca](http://www.nationalcitizens.ca)

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