**BILL M-2025**

**Public Sector Union Transparency and Accountability Act**

**HER MAJESTY**, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia, enacts as follows:

**PART 1 – INTRODUCTION**

**Purpose**

1. The purpose of this Act is to ensure that public sector unions in British Columbia, which are funded exclusively by public sector employee wages derived from taxpayer funds, are classified as public bodies and subject to the same transparency and accountability standards as other publicly funded entities.
2. This Act will establish clear legal and financial oversight to prevent conflicts of interest and ensure public confidence in the governance and financial administration of public sector unions.

**PART 2 – RECLASSIFICATION OF PUBLIC SECTOR UNIONS AS PUBLIC BODIES**

**Definition and Scope**

1. The *Labour Relations Code* of British Columbia is hereby amended to classify all public sector unions representing employees of the BC government, Crown corporations, health authorities, educational institutions, and other government-funded bodies as public entities under BC law.
2. Public sector unions shall be subject to: a. The *Financial Information Act*, ensuring mandatory public financial disclosures.
b. The *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FIPPA), ensuring transparency and access to records of financial transactions, executive salaries, and expenditures.
c. The *Public Sector Employers Act*, ensuring that elected and appointed union officials who remain government employees are held to the same conflict-of-interest standards as other public sector employees.

**Financial Transparency and Oversight**

1. Public sector unions shall be required to:
a. Publish audited financial statements annually, detailing revenue, expenditures, and compensation of executives and staff.
b. Disclose all government-provided facilities, funding, and resources used in union operations.
c. Report all political donations and third-party spending that influences public policy or elections.

**PART 3 – PUBLIC SECTOR UNION LEADERSHIP AND SIMULTANEOUS GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT**

1. Many elected members of public sector union provincial executives continue to work as government employees while serving in union leadership roles. This creates an inherent contradiction in their classification as private entities. If public sector unions were truly private, their elected leadership would not simultaneously be government employees receiving wages and benefits from taxpayer-funded positions.
2. This dual role highlights the fact that public sector unions are intrinsically linked to government operations, bargaining directly with the government while being staffed by individuals who remain government employees. Given these facts, public sector unions must be classified as public entities and subject to the same transparency and accountability laws as other public bodies.

**PART 4 – ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES**

**Compliance and Reporting**

1. The Auditor General of British Columbia shall conduct an annual review of public sector union financial records and governance practices to ensure compliance with this Act.
2. Failure to comply with financial disclosure and transparency obligations will result in:
a. Fines of up to $500,000 for unions failing to disclose required financial information.
b. Suspension of dues collection privileges for non-compliant unions until full financial transparency requirements are met.
c. Public reporting of violations, ensuring that members and taxpayers are informed of non-compliant unions.

**PART 5 – TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS**

1. All public sector unions shall have a six-month transition period following enactment of this Act to comply with the new classification and reporting requirements.
2. The Minister of Labour shall establish an independent Public Sector Union Oversight Committee, composed of labour law experts, financial auditors, and ethics commissioners, to oversee implementation and ensure compliance.

**PART 6 – FINAL PROVISIONS**

1. This Act comes into force on [insert date], with full implementation required within one year of enactment.
2. The *Labour Relations Code*, *Financial Information Act*, and *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* are hereby amended to reflect the provisions of this Act.
3. This Act may be cited as the **Public Sector Union Transparency and Accountability Act**.

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This Bill is designed to bring transparency, accountability, and financial oversight to BC’s public sector unions, which receive funding through taxpayer-derived public sector wages. These unions currently operate under a legal framework designed for private organizations, despite their direct involvement in government negotiations, public sector wage distribution, and policy influence.

This Act ensures that unions are held to the same financial and ethical standards as other publicly funded bodies, while preventing conflicts of interest where government employees simultaneously act as union executives, bargaining against their own employer—the government itself.

**Voting against this Bill would signal a refusal to ensure transparency in organizations that directly influence public sector wages, benefits, and government spending.** This Act does not interfere with collective bargaining rights but merely establishes proper governance and accountability for organizations funded entirely by the public sector.

**For the integrity of BC’s public institutions, all MLAs should support this legislation.**