

Queen's Park
Room/Bureau 159,
Main Legislative Building/
Édifice de l'Assemblée législative,
Queen's Park, Toronto, (Ontario) M7A 1A5
Tel/Tél: (416) 325-9203 • Fax/Télécop.: (416) 325-9185
fgelinas-qp@ndp.on.ca



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE

France Gélinas

MPP/Deputée Nickel Belt

Constituency/Comté
Hanmer Valley Shopping Centre,
5085 Hwy/route 69 N/nord, Unit/Unité15,
Hanmer, (Ontario) P3P 1P7
Tel/Tél: (705) 969-3621 or/ou 1-877-280-9990
Fax/Télécop.: (705) 969-3538
fgelinas-co@ndp.on.ca

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To: People Against Replacement Workers Committee

I am writing to ask for your support and assistance in bringing forward a bill that would ban the use of temporary replacement workers in Ontario.

In our Province, 97% of collective agreements are negotiated without work disruptions; and with regard to the remaining 3%, very few strikes or lock-outs involved the use of temporary replacement workers. However, sociological research has shown us that when replacement workers are used in labour disputes, the impact in the short and long term on the people and on the communities in which they reside can be devastating. It is interesting to note as well, that studies conducted by economists suggest that laws banning the use of temporary replacement workers can reduce the length and divisiveness of labour disputes.

A law banning the use of temporary replacement workers exists in Québec since 1978, and in British Columbia since 1993; successive governments in those two provinces have never repealed those laws. A similar law existed in Ontario from 1993 to 1996 and during that period of time, investments in Ontario increased.

Those are a few of the reasons why Ontario needs a law banning the use of temporary replacements workers during a strike or lock out. After a year-long strike in my riding where temporary replacement workers were used I think that Ontario is ready for such a law. If you agree please sign the enclosed petition and let me know.

I hope to hear from you soon.

France Gélinas
MPP Nickel Belt