



BRITISH COLUMBIA
CROWN COUNSEL
ASSOCIATION

BC CROWN PROSECUTORS' STATEMENT ON THE BCGLA'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE THEIR OWN UNION

Vancouver, B.C. (February 14, 2023): The BC Crown Counsel Association (BCCCA) is adding its voice to those supporting the BC Government Lawyers Association (BCGLA), whose members are about to have legislation (Bill 5) imposed on them by the provincial government.

Despite the fact the BCGLA's unionization case is before the Labour Relations Board, and without a decision yet, Bill 5 would trump that process and prevent the BCGLA from choosing its own union to represent 350 civil lawyers who work for the provincial government. They would be assigned by the government to the Professional Employees Association (PEA) instead.

"We fully support the BCGLA's efforts to become the union that should represent its own members," said Adam Dalrymple, vice president of the BC Crown Counsel Association. The BCCCA is the association that represents criminal prosecutors, another group of BC government-employed lawyers.

"No employer should have the right to assign any group of employees to a union that it selects. There's no independence in that. All lawyers working for the government need someone who will have their backs when it comes to contract bargaining and someone who will ensure an independent process for resolving disagreements with the government as employer. The issues they face are unique and cannot be adequately managed by a union representing employees of several different disciplines and job categories.

"We as prosecutors in B.C., plus civil lawyers in federal and most provincial governments have unions," Dalrymple added. "The civil lawyers employed by the BC government should be able to choose the same representation for themselves."

-30-

Media contact
Trevor Pancoust
tpancoust@pacegroup.com
778.386.0843