

**RIGHTS FOR NORTEL DISABLED EMPLOYEES
(A Human Rights Self-Advocacy Organization)**

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MEDIA ADVISORY

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To: Canadian Parliament Press Gallery

Media conference details are: Wednesday, May 26, 2010 11:00 A.M. to 11:30 A.M. EST
Charles Lynch Room, 130-S Center Block
Parliament of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A9

Sponsor: **Rights for Nortel Disabled Employees Group**

Subject: **May 26th Historic Vote in the House of Commons on Bill C-501 and Bill S-216**

In our [Letter to Federal MPs](#) on Bill S-216 and Bill C-501 on May 19th, 2010, we state the following:

- (1) Bill S-216 - we need to get Bill S-216 into the House of Commons by the Government by May 26th or shortly thereafter. It has LTD Claims at Preferred Status.
- (2) Bill C-501 - Vote "Yes" on May 26th for the purpose of getting into the Standing Committee of Industry, Science and Technology so that we can make the required amendments needed for the Long-Term Disabled. It is well understood now, that the disabled are a distinct and separate group, and not pensioners. Nevertheless, the Bill C-501 amendments needed are: LTD Claims should be included at Super-Priority Status, and then Pension Deficits and Unpaid Severance be reduced from Super-Priority to Preferred Status.

Toxic Insurance: Instead of paying premiums for Disability Income Insurance to an insurance company, an employer or Trustees for a Union's "Health & Welfare Plan" (HWP) choose to forgo employees' security, and to act as their own insurer. This is also known as a self-insured or self-funded plan.

The Company/Union becomes responsible for bearing the risk, that in the case of an employee's inability to earn an income as a result of accident or illness, it will pay the disabled employee's income and benefits, directly from its own coffers, using a Trust.

The problems with "**Toxic Insurance**" are: no regulations, no auditing, no financial disclosure, and no minimum contributions are required, to ensure your financial future. If your employer "restructures" or "goes bankrupt", disability income and benefits end prematurely, with life threatening consequences!

Employers have in instances, absolved themselves of the responsibility of fulfilling their obligations to their disabled employees, and take funds set for them, in a Health and Welfare Trust, for their own bonuses.

Canadians, this could be any one of you: If you are already on disability when your employer or Union's Health or Welfare Plan becomes insolvent, you may be pushed into poverty.

SPEAKER: Arlene Borenstein (Plante)- *Nortel Disabled Employee* *Speaker, Q & A*
Peter Burns - *Nortel Disabled Employee* *Q & A*

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[Senator Art Eggleton's Bill S-216 - LTD Benefits in Bankruptcy](#)
[NDP MP Rafferty's Bill C-501 - Pensions & Severance in Bankruptcy](#)