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Government and Regulatory Affairs

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The future of how we are represented in Ottawa is being decided soon! Does C-22 sound like actual reform or political maneuvering? Is it in your interest?

C-22–What is your vote worth, Canada?

It is recognized and appropriate that democracies evolve as countries and citizens alike modernize. It is equally as important that governments revisit legislation in a timely and rational manner to ensure current information and policy match national realities.

Canada's population is growing and people are flocking to where the work is currently—Alberta, British Columbia and Ontario continue to enjoy rapidly expanding populations. In an effort to review and “modernize” the way in which we elect MPs, the current government is proposing to **change the rules of the game and re-work population growth requirements for adding additional MPs in Ottawa.** Bill C-22, which is currently in the House of Commons was introduced by the Honourable Peter Van Loan, Government House Leader and “**Minister for Democratic Reform**” for the Conservatives.

In the proposed *Bill*, the House of Commons would have a total of 330

seats starting in 2012. It currently has 308. The provinces of Alberta, Quebec and British Columbia would need approximately 100,000 new residents to get a new seat in the House of Commons. Using the formula in Bill C-22, Ontario would have to gain 200,000 new residents to obtain a new seat in the House of Commons.

If seats in our House of Commons are to be expanded to reflect changing population rates in different parts of the Country **C-22 is not a fair, equitable formula for national change!**

It seems only to serve regional interests with a partisan political flavour. If Canada is to examine a system of democratic reform for increased representation for our citizens there are better ways which would have more national fairness.

We encourage you to talk to your Member of Parliament before the end of February to discuss this matter – for your MPs information click the link : <http://www2.parl.gc.ca/Parlinfo/Compilations/HouseOfCommons/MemberByPostalCode.aspx?Menu=HOC>

NEWSFLASH: 2008 Canadian LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

The dates are set for the 2008 Legislative Conference . Mark your calendars for Sunday May 4 to Wednesday May 7 for a future focused agenda celebrating 100 years of success in the workplace for the organized Construction Industry.

We will combine a celebration with the work of getting our message out to Government and politicians of all stripes.

Get your registration forms in early to ensure your participation. We are encouraging you to bring an apprentice with you from your organization!

