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November 22, 2007

Alain Jolicoeur
President
Canada Border Services Agency
191 Laurier West
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0L8

Dear Mr. Jolicoeur:

We are in receipt of a copy of a letter dated November 20, 2007 from John Gillan, Regional Director General, CBSA Greater Toronto Area (GTA) Region to PSAC/CEUDA Local 024 Toronto District Branch President, John King, terminating his employment.

The PSAC and CEUDA hold firmly to the position that employees acting as union officials have a very broad ability to speak freely, and to disseminate information to and within the membership without fear of reprisal. This position has, on many occasions, been supported and reinforced by both labour boards and arbitrators when employers attempt to stifle free speech—whether they do it through disciplinary measures or otherwise.

For whatever reason, the CBSA's actions, as outlined in John Gillan's November 20th letter, are a clear attempt to curtail the free speech of a PSAC/CEUDA elected official. As such, it is an unconscionable affront to our union and the

members we are privileged to represent. In addition to the personal impact that the CBSA decision will have on John King, it has a significant impact on our members who work for the CBSA, particularly in the GTA.

As you know, the PSAC is in negotiations with Treasury Board for the FB Group, for a first collective agreement. Issues, both directly and indirectly related to the bargaining process have strained our relationship, particularly in some locations, including Pearson Airport.

On its face, the CBSA decision will erode that relationship further unless the CBSA moves quickly to resolve the VSSA issue and recognize the right of union representatives to freely communicate with their members. We urgently request that John King be reinstated without delay.

Sincerely,



John Gordon
National President
PSAC



Ron Moran
National President
CEUDA

c.c. Paul Burkholder (by e-mail paul.burkholder@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca
and by fax at 613.952.1783)
Gerry Halabecki