Why you should care about Doug Ford's Bill 28

Bill 28 is game-changing legislation for unions.

We've seen governments before that freeze wages, end strikes and legislate workers back to work.

We've <u>never</u> seen a law that imposes a four-year contract with huge cuts in real wages, orders people back to work and threatens massive fines for failing to comply, and pre-emptively overrides the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Human Rights Code so that workers have no right to challenge the legislation at the labour board or in court.

'Draconian' doesn't begin to cover it. This is legislation you expect to see in Russia, not Canada.

Bill 28 is dedicated to destroying free collective bargaining, undermining the union and ending any hope of challenging the government in court.

Anti-union governments led by Danielle Smith (Alberta), Scott Moe (Saskatchewan), Heather Stefanson (Manitoba) and Blaine Higgs (New Brunswick) are watching closely. If Bill 28 is allowed to stand unchallenged, it's a certain bet other provinces will trample the Charter rights of workers and unions in the same way.

The Charter right to free collective bargaining and the right to strike won't be worth the paper they're written on.

Private-sector strikes that risk interfering with utilities, construction projects, transportation links, resource development and telecommunications will be fair game for anti-union governments.

Bill 28 isn't about "hard bargaining" with public-sector workers.

Bill 28 legislates cuts for workers and puts an end to bargaining, court challenges or any discussion - period.

Previous wage control legislation in Ontario such as Bill 115 and Bill 124 forced unions to go to court to defend their constitutional right to collective bargaining. Bill 28 prevents any legal challenge at all.

Ford didn't bother waiting for a court ruling to invoke the notwithstanding clause. Make no mistake – this is game-changing legislation that smashes all norms respecting collective bargaining and the constitutionally protected rights of unions and workers.