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Our Mobilization has Borne Fruit

No later than the day following the rally, when federal lawyers gathered to “Have Lunch with Rob & Vic”, the Justice minister, Rob Nicholson, and the Treasury Board president, Vic Toews, finally responded in writing to AJC’s request concerning the appointment of the president of the arbitration council. It seems that when politicians feel the pressure, they react!

Let us remember the positive outcome of the rally and keep in mind the importance of showing unity and solidarity when voicing our collective demands. Representatives on the management side were impressed by the hundreds of federal lawyers who gathered across the street from the Supreme Court. They also heard a lot about the fact that the AJC lawyers, right across the country, wore buttons calling for “Justice for Federal Lawyers”. Thanks to your efforts, we finally have a written commitment from the president of the Treasury Board to work alongside the AJC to finding a mutually acceptable president of the arbitration council which will make the final decision regarding our first collective agreement. Bravo and congratulations to all.

However, it is still too soon to claim victory. The Treasury Board’s written commitment to try and arrive at an agreement on the president of the arbitration council, welcome as it is, only represents a first step. We will have to make considerable efforts in order to obtain the appointment of a neutral president as well as a collective agreement containing fair salary increases. It is by continuing to show your support (including by wearing a button) and your solidarity with the AJC that we will obtain the result that we all wish for.

Thank you all and stay tuned for future updates.

Patrick Jetté

P.S. – If you have not yet seen it, please read the report published in THE HILL TIMES. (www.thehilltimes.ca), follow the link on the AJC website.