

# Ken Birzneck's Official Statement

September 11<sup>th</sup> 2005

Hi. My name is Ken Birzneck and this is what happened to me on Wednesday September 7<sup>th</sup> 2005 @ 2:00 PM at 3777 Kingsway. I am a locked out TELUS employee. I was doing picket duty. We were being very vocal for the past few days and security had stepped up the pressure, lots of video cameras being used by the private security firm AlcuFax International.

The day before I had been threatened with being arrested by AFI for blowing my whistle by the AFI boss "Red". My reply to this was what part of F\*\*\* Off don't you understand. He left without reply but from then on the pressure really started video cameras watching our every move. (we also had a camera)

Later at 2:00 PM the AFI camera person came on to the sidewalk right in front of me. I asked him for his ID, no reply. I asked him to stop, he ignored me. I then raised my right hand and covered the lens of the camera. [Ken's left had is paralyzed] I was grabbed from behind and thrown down to the ground face first with a knee in my back and my arm twisted behind me.

This was the AFI boss "Red" who then said he was making citizens arrest. My friend Doug helped me up. "Red" was calling 911 and the RCMP arrived shortly. They sent the witnesses away and left me sitting by myself. The paramedics checked my blood pressure and left. The RCMP went to the AFI and talked to them gesturing laughing.

Then the police, (Cst. Larson) came over to me and listened to my story for a moment then proceeded to tell me if anyone would be arrested it would be me for touching the camera and that I was lucky they weren't charging me with assault. But the info would be kept on file to charge me if necessary.

Later that day my witness and I went to the Burnaby Deer Lake RCMP to proceed with charges but was told Larson would have to deal with it and he worked out of the community police office off McKay so we went home.

The next day I went to the TWU office and spoke with a business agent who called Cst. Larson who informed us that he would not charge AFI and Crown Counsel would not proceed in this matter. We then spoke to a lawyer who said this is now a civil matter as AFI had interfered with my right to picket and excessive force was used.

Now I'll tell you a little about myself. I have been on the picket line continuously since the lockout started. I have seen Red everyday and he knows me. I am 44 years old. (the paper erred) I am paralyzed on the left side. I walk with aid of a cane. I also have multiple sclerosis. I am not strong on my feet and trip quite often. I am about as threatening as a bowl of jello.

I have worked at Telus for 15 years and had positions in customer service. I have commendations on my file from satisfied customers. If I am such a bad employee as Drew McCarther stated on September 8<sup>th</sup> on Now 98 (Radio) why have they kept me for 15 years? I also told you about my disability so you know how cowardly these AFI security are. Nothing more than woman beaters and cripple kickers. Later that day some able bodied Craft brothers came by to talk to Red but the coward wouldn't leave the building.

Yours in Solidarity,



Ken Birzneck