

# Advisory Board election bid to keep control of strike fund

BY TONNY CHAN

**C**ONTINUITY counts more than ever for the election of Labour Advisory Board (LAB) members this year as trade unions move closer to setting up a strike fund to finance industrial action.

The 120 trade unions which will join the fund have agreed elected labour representatives on the LAB should be entrusted with the powers to supervise the use of the fund.

Trade unionists said it would be in the best interest of the labour movement if incumbent labour representatives were re-elected since they were the fund's main organisers.

Active trade unionists have attached great hopes to the fund, wishing it to be developed into a powerful back-up for workers involved in indus-

trial action. Senior unionist Li Kai-ming said he expected the incumbent members to be re-elected as this should be the most effective way to ensure continuity.

The LAB comprises 12 members: five elected by more than 400 trade unions, five nominated by five major employers' associations and two appointed by the administration.

A Labour Department spokesman said the LAB election was planned for sometime in October.

He said labour unions could nominate candidates as from mid-September.

Mr Li, who was secretary-general of the Federation of Hongkong and Kowloon Labour Unions, said it was almost certain the federation's vice-chairman, Li Fung-ying, run for another term. Michael Siu, Federation

of Civil Service Unions chairman, said his organisation's secretary, Chu Ming, would seek re-election.

Pang Chun-hoi, vice-president of the pro-Taipei Trade Unions Council, said the council's member, Leung Tsz-leung, was also expected to seek re-election although no decision had been made.

Union sources said the remaining incumbents, namely Felix Cheung, of the Hongkong Civil Servants' General Union, and Leung Fu-wah of the pro-Beijing Federation of Trade Unions, would contend too.

The independent Confederation of Trade Unions led by liberals Lau Chin-shek and Lee Cheuk-yan are not expected to nominate their own candidate to challenge the line-up.