



June 3, 2010

To: CLC Ranking Officers of Affiliated Unions  
Presidents of Federations of Labour

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

**Re: Updates: CLC & the International Labour Organization (ILO)**

This will update you on our current activities related to the ILO.

**1. Canadian unions attend ILO Annual Meeting**

International Labour Conference (ILC) - June 2-18, 2010, Geneva, Switzerland

I will lead the Canadian trade union delegation for the 2010 ILC. Please see:  
[http://www.ilo.org/global/What\\_we\\_do/Officialmeetings/ilc/ILCSessions/99thSession/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/global/What_we_do/Officialmeetings/ilc/ILCSessions/99thSession/lang--en/index.htm) The following topics are under discussion:

- a) **The strategic objective of Employment:** Gilles Chapadeau (FTQ) & Josée Lamoureux (CSN),
- b) **Decent work for Domestic Workers:** Carole Gingras (FTQ) & Anne Pineau (CSN),
- c) **HIV/AIDS and the world of work:** Janice Cibart (CFNU),
- d) **The application of conventions & recommendations:** Sheila Katz (CLC).

**2. ILO to Spotlight Canadian worker & union rights violations**

**Notice to Canadian Unions:** During the week of June 7-11 the ILO Committee that reviews violations of trade union rights (see 1.d, above) will probably be putting Canada in the hot-seat by requiring it to publicly explain its long list of reported trade union and worker violations. Canada has already been long-listed for the enquiry. A negotiation with employers will soon determine if it is to become one of the few countries selected for questioning.

For the Committee's work, the ILO has published a detailed report on the violations it has found in every province of Canada and touching upon virtually every sector of the economy. Many of these relate directly to complaints that CLC affiliates have initiated and still pursue at the ILO. Please see page 90 at:

[http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_norm/---relconf/documents/meetingdocument/wcms\\_123424.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---relconf/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_123424.pdf)

During the same week the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) will launch the results of last year's global survey on trade union rights violations, in which Canada will figure prominently as a leading culprit among industrialized countries. Advance information about the launching events is available, along with posters and leaflets at [tur@ituc-csi.org](mailto:tur@ituc-csi.org).

Unions in Canada are invited to focus on these events during the week of June 7-11 especially as they relate to particular violations that pertain to them and to publicly communicate their indignation of Canada's abysmal performance.

### **3. ILO reviews Canadian implementation of ratified Conventions**

Canada has ratified 29 ILO Conventions. It is required to review their implementation according to a calendar cycle set by the ILO. By the end of August, 2010 the Canadian Government must report on the progress it is making for implementing the ratified Conventions indicated below.

As part of the process the CLC will also provide comment and additional information to the ILO about Canada's performance on these. Your views or comments are welcome **by July 15, 2010** for incorporation into the CLC reports.

#### **The Conventions under review are as follows:**

- a) **Convention 1: Hours of work (industry convention):** The ILO has reported a large number of violations under this convention and has asked for the Federal Government and all the provinces to correct their non-conformance. Please see page 629 at:  
[http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_norm/---relconf/documents/meetingdocument/wcms\\_123424.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---relconf/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_123424.pdf)
- b) **Convention 88: Employment Services Convention:** The ILO has requested a review of Canada's unemployment insurance assistance or relief and related employment services, including employment offices and programmes. Canada must also report on employment transfers or determinations for qualifications of unemployed people who seek access to various programmes. Please see:  
<http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/convdisp1.htm>
- c) **Convention 105: Abolition of Forced Labour:** Canada is to produce a report on its overall performance in implementing this Convention. Canada has also been asked to report on the entering into force of the *Canada Shipping Act* and of related regulations:  
<http://webfusion.ilo.org/public/db/standards/normes/appl/appl-displayAllComments.cfm?conv=C105&ctry=0110&hdroff=1&lang=EN>

- d) **Convention 162: Asbestos Convention:** Canada has been asked to report on measures to harmonize the legislation related to the uses of asbestos and to provide information on measures taken to curb a significant increase of asbestos-related injuries and fatalities. Please see: <http://webfusion.ilo.org/public/db/standards/normes/appl/appl-displaycomment.cfm?hdroff=1&ctry=0110&year=2006&type=R&conv=C162&lang=EN>
- e) **Convention 182: Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention:** The ILO has urged Canada to act upon provisions of the Canada Labour Code pertaining to young people in dangerous work, especially in federally regulated industries. The ILO has also asked how provinces will be made to comply with prohibitions of hazardous work, such as night work, work in mines, power line construction and maintenance, and meat processing. It has also encouraged the government to report on other provisions of the Convention. Please see: <http://webfusion.ilo.org/public/db/standards/normes/appl/appl-displaycomment.cfm?hdroff=1&ctry=0110&year=2008&type=R&conv=C182&lang=EN>

#### 4. CLC Young Workers targets ILO Convention 138 on Minimum Age

The CLC Young Workers will continue to urge the Canadian Government to ratify ILO Convention 138 on minimum age of employment. The Canadian government has acknowledged it has not ratified this core labour standard because of non-compliance by provincial authorities. For information on the campaign please contact us.

#### 5. CLC International Department Priorities:

There are currently 188 ILO Conventions. Canada has ratified only 29.

Last year the CLC International Department (ID) completed a two year project to raise the awareness and involvement of trade unions in the implementation of the ILO Conventions and standards. As a result the selected conventions (both ratified and non-ratified) shown in the adjoining box have been prioritized by the CLC for the various review cycles.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	= Ratified core ILO Conventions by CANADA
<input type="checkbox"/>	ILO 29 Forced Labour
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ILO 87 F. of Ass + R. to Organize
<input type="checkbox"/>	ILO 98 R. To Organize + Coll. Bargaining
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ILO 100 Equal Remuneration
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ILO 105 Abolish Forced Labour
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ILO 111 Discrimination in Employment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ILO 138 Minimum Age
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ILO 182 Worst Forms of Child Labour
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	= Ratified additional ILO Conventions
<input type="checkbox"/>	ILO 81 Labour Inspection Convention
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ILO 88 Employment Services Convention
<input type="checkbox"/>	ILO 97 Migration for Employment Convention
<input type="checkbox"/>	ILO 102 Social Security Convention
<input type="checkbox"/>	ILO 118 Equality of Treatment Convention
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ILO 121 Employment Injury Benefits Convention
<input type="checkbox"/>	ILO 122 Employment Policy Convention
<input type="checkbox"/>	ILO 139 Occupational Cancer Convention
<input type="checkbox"/>	ILO 143 Migration Workers Convention
<input type="checkbox"/>	ILO 144 Tripartite Consultation Convention
<input type="checkbox"/>	ILO 148 Occ. Hazards and Working Environment
<input type="checkbox"/>	ILO 155 Occupational Safety /Health Convention
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ILO 160 Labour Statistics Convention
<input type="checkbox"/>	ILO 161 Occupational Health Services Convention
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ILO 162 Asbestos at Work Convention
<input type="checkbox"/>	ILO 168 Employment Promotion - Unemployment Protection
<input type="checkbox"/>	ILO 169 Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention
<input type="checkbox"/>	ILO 170 Chemicals at Work Convention
<input type="checkbox"/>	ILO 176 Safety and Health in Mines Convention
<input type="checkbox"/>	ILO 183 Maternity Protection Convention
<input type="checkbox"/>	ILO 187 OHS Promotional Framework Convention

## 6. ILO Decent Work Day: October 7, 2010

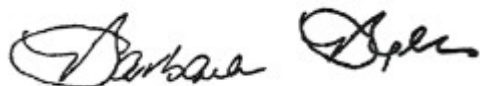
Canadian Trade unions are reminded to consider what they will do to highlight October 7, 2010 as the the *The World Day for Decent Work*. Please see: <http://www.ituc-csi.org/wddw-website.html>.

## 7. CLC reporting to ITUC of 2010 trade union rights violations in Canada

This is the first call for Canadian unions to inform us of new violations involving Freedom of Association or Collective Bargaining in Canada. The information you send us will be incorporated in next year's annual report of the global violations produced by the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC). To see what was reported in last year's report, please see: <http://survey09.ituc-csi.org/>

For further information on our work at the ILO please contact Lucien Royer, Director of our International Department, at [lroyer@clc-ctc.ca](mailto:lroyer@clc-ctc.ca).

In Solidarity,



Barbara Byers  
Executive Vice-President

cc: CLC Officers and Executive Assistants  
CLC National and Regional Directors