

53RD B.C. FEDERATION OF LABOUR

ANNUAL CONVENTION

NOVEMBER 23-25, 2009

2009 RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT CONVENTION

EMERGENCY RESOLUTION 1-2009

THE FEDERATION WILL:

- 1) Condemn the Campbell government's continuing interference in the collective bargaining process and abuse of the rights of workers; and
- 2) Support CUPE British Columbia and its affiliated Local 873's campaign for a negotiated collective agreement or the use of a neutral third party arbitrator, with solidarity actions and demonstrations, and if required, organize local, regional, and province-wide job action; and
- 3) Convene a Conference to develop an ongoing strategy to fight the undermining of the collective bargaining process and the abuse of the rights of workers.

EMERGENCY RESOLUTION 2-2009

THE FEDERATION WILL:

- a) Encourage affiliates and their members to write to TransLink and MVT Canada demanding a return to the bargaining table with ATU 1724 to negotiate a fair contract that includes a secure pension; and
- b) Continue to support affiliates who are fighting demands to eliminate defined benefit pension plans; and
- c) Continue to demand changes to the **Labour Relations Code** to provide full successorship for workers and their collective agreements when contractors are changed.

EMERGENCY RESOLUTION 3-2009

THE FEDERATION WILL:

- 1) Demand the BC government immediately reverse the funding cuts and develop a plan to restore public services and supports for the community;

- 2) Develop an education and communications program regarding funding cuts and the government's attack on public services;
- 3) Work with other community organizations to organize a community fight-back campaign including regional demonstrations and a Day of Action against the BC Liberal government funding cuts on March 6, 2010; and
- 4) Consider Initiative and/or Recall Act Campaigns to force Liberal MLAs to govern in the interest of all British Columbians.

COMPOSITE RESOLUTION TO COVER 13 & 14-2009

THE FEDERATION WILL in conjunction with the Canadian Labour Congress demand the provincial and federal governments:

- Immediately ban the practice of housing Temporary Foreign Workers above or adjacent to greenhouses in recognition of the obvious dangers associated with living in buildings that house chemicals, fertilizers, boilers, industrial fans and/or heaters;
- Immediately put in place an inspection and enforcement program to inspect all migrant worker housing prior to and following their occupancy and to terminate employers from the Temporary Foreign Worker program who are found to be in non-compliance with standards for adequate housing; and
- That any and all written materials, instructions and signage - particularly in regard to workplace health and safety issues and chemical/pesticide use and application - be provided in English, French, Punjabi, Spanish and other native languages as necessary.

COMPOSITE RESOLUTION 34-37-2009

THE FEDERATION WILL work with affiliates and the CLC to pressure all levels of government to make significant public investments that rebuild the social infrastructure as part of a broader, sustainable response to the current economic crisis, including:

- Maintaining transfer payments to provinces and cities;
- Implementing a strong anti-poverty strategy;
- Strengthening supports for people with disabilities;
- Building non-profit housing, including supported housing options, and funding for emergency shelters;
- Establishing a universal, public early childhood education programme, including full day kindergarten and community-based childcare;

- Supporting programs and services that address the economic and social disadvantages of aboriginal people and communities; addressing the conditions contributing to the gender gap in incomes;
- Providing workers and students with the education and training required to secure decent work;
- Implementing a fair and adequate tax system to support public services; and
- Restoring the full scope of collective bargaining rights for all public service workers; and further;

THE FEDERATION WILL work to create the broadest possible support among workers, affiliates, and communities across the province for taxation and funding measures that reverse the decline of public services.

AMENDED COMPOSITE RESOLUTION 1-3 AND 58-2009

THE FEDERATION WILL work with affiliates and the CLC to pressure governments to fundamentally restructure the economy to avoid a repeat of the current global economic crisis, including the following measures:

1. Reform the taxation system to ensure it is progressive and equitable by:
 - The provincial government immediately stop the decline of Consolidated Revenue Fund expenditures and moving back to 18 percent GDP as a minimal level of annual CRF expenditure;
 - Establishing a Royal Commission to obtain professional analysis of and solicit public opinion on tax reform to ensure tax fairness and adequate funding for public services;
 - Eliminating opportunities for tax avoidance such as the use of off-shore havens, intra-corporate profit transfers, trusts and other “loophole” strategies; and
 - Reforming the corporate tax system to ensure corporations pay a fair share.
2. Ensure government procurement and expenditures serve the best interests of BC by:
 - Eliminating Partnerships BC and the active promotion of Public/Private Partnerships as the preferred method of financing and operating public infrastructure;
 - Creating an independent legislative Budget Office to analyze the finances of government and its agencies;
 - Providing the necessary resources to the Auditor General’s office to monitor the use of the fiscal resources of the Province; and

- Giving preference to local and domestic suppliers in government procurement.
3. Increase public investment in human resource development by:
- Instituting a publicly-funded, universal, early learning and childcare program;
 - Mandating private enterprises to invest in workplace-based training;
 - Improving the health status of citizens by investing in a strong public healthcare system that includes comprehensive and seamless healthcare delivery, and a National Pharmacare program;
 - Establishing an apprenticeship and trades training system that ensures British Columbia has a skilled workforce; and
 - Reducing financial barriers to education and training through reduced tuition fees at post-secondary institutions, and expanded EI and Social Assistance funding supports.
4. Promote investment that ensures industry serves the needs of BC by:
- Improved regulation of corporate activity, including strengthening of shareholder rights and regulation, and governance of the financial sector;
 - Support for increasing of social enterprises and cooperatives;
 - Providing direct support to Canada's value-added manufacturing industries that can maximize the value of BC's raw resources;
 - Supporting the development of neglected economic sectors such as arts and culture;
 - Increasing incentives for domestic research and development activities;
 - Instituting a regional development strategy that allows local communities to gain a fair benefit from local industries and maintain their viability; and
 - Improving investment incentives domestic sources of capital, including workers' pension funds, the Canada Pension Plan and credit unions;
5. Ensure the sustainability of BC's economy by:
- Providing incentives for "green" investments, in the private sector and increase public investment in green infrastructure;
 - Introducing technology driving regulations to reduce greenhouse gases and other emissions;
 - Preserving the local agriculture land base;
 - Restoring public control of BC's energy resources, including a ban on log exports;

- Ensuring BC residents obtain the best possible price from the sale of provincially-owned natural resources.
6. Enhance the economic security of British Columbian families and local economies by:
- Establishing and maintaining a reasonable minimum wage;
 - Increasing social assistance rates that meet the basic needs of the disadvantaged;
 - Strengthening the public pension system to ensure all British Columbians are free of poverty in retirement and promoting the expansion of private, defined benefit pension plans;
 - Implementing fair wage policies to govern public expenditures; and
 - Restoring access to free collective bargaining by reform of BC's **Labour Relations Code**.

The delegates of the Federation endorse the following program of action to implement this program.

1. The affiliates and the Federation jointly produce popular education materials, including videos, written materials and course materials for use by affiliates, locals, activists, schools and the public to promote a progressive economic and social agenda based on the recommendations in the two papers discussed by workshops.
2. The Federation and the affiliates lobby New Democratic Party MLAs and constituency associations to ensure the Party and the caucus embrace a progressive economic and social strategy for British Columbia.
3. The Federation and affiliates work to build a province-wide movement with our community partners to escalate opposition to stop the Liberal Government cuts to services and restore funding, including developing a unified message, co-ordinated advertising campaigns and regional actions leading to a province-wide day of action.
4. The Federation continue to work with public sector unions to co-ordinate collective bargaining strategies, to reject any attempts by governments to strip conditions from collective agreements and impose back to work legislation..This includes solidarity actions regionally and provincially up to and including job action.
5. The Federation develop a coordinated fight back campaign against the HST and for fair taxes and the funding of public services. The Officers of the Federation develop a full scale campaign against the tax.
6. Affiliates and the Federation work with community partners, including First Nations, to hold a Summit on Poverty in 2010 which will develop a comprehensive strategy and plan to reduce poverty.

7. Affiliates and their Federation support the Young Workers Committee and their work to create a low wage worker network to organize non-union workers to fight for their rights, including a \$10 minimum wage.
8. The Federation organize immediately a strategic planning meeting of all affiliates to implement the Action Plan. Each affiliate will commit staff to participate on the Planning Committee for the implementation of the Action Plan.
9. Affiliates and the Federation focus campaigns in targeted ridings to build capacity to defeat the Liberal MLA in 2013, or earlier through recall, if feasible.
10. Provide a complete report to delegates at the 2010 Convention on the implementation of the Action Plan and how to best use our resources to increase our capacity to organize against anti-worker politicians, defeat the Liberal government and to elect and keep accountable politicians who are supported by the labour movement, municipally, provincially and federally.

RESOLUTION 11-2009

THE FEDERATION WILL call on the government to conduct a review of the BC LRB and its conduct with respect to applying natural justice and administrative fair play to all stakeholders equally.

AMENDED RESOLUTION 15-2009

THE FEDERATION WILL lobby federal and provincial governments to establish joint compliance teams to ensure that contractors do not evade their true status as an employer and comply with requirements to contribute to EI, administer employee payroll with CPP and income tax deductions, and pay required WCB premiums.

RESOLUTION 16-2009

THE FEDERATION WILL work with affiliates and the CLC to pressure the federal government to improve the Employment Insurance system, including measures such as:

- reducing the number of hours required to qualify, and applying a uniform requirement across the country;
- increasing the rate and duration of benefits;
- expanding eligibility to include all workers (self-employed, part-time, temporary, etc;)
- basing benefit amount on a worker's best 12 weeks of earnings; and

- improving training opportunities for unemployed or displaced workers.

AMENDED RESOLUTION 17-2009

THE FEDERATION WILL work with affiliates and the CLC to pressure the federal government to expand and protect our pension system, including measures such as:

- increasing the “Guaranteed Income Supplement” (GIS) to support the most vulnerable seniors;
- expanding Canada Pension Plan (CPP) eligibility and the amount of CPP benefits for workers; and
- -creating a national pension insurance fund to ensure workplace pensions aren’t lost when employers go bankrupt or pension funds are eroded by downturns in the stock market.

AMENDED RESOLUTION 19-2009

THE FEDERATION WILL support the enactment of strong legislation to combat counterfitting and privacy and protect jobs in BC's motion picture industry; and

THE FEDERATION WILL work to educate affiliates on the destructive effects of piracy and illegal file sharing.

RESOLUTION 24 TO COVER 25-2009

THE FEDERATION WILL work with the United Steelworker’s Wood Council to lobby the federal and BC provincial governments for the creation of a comprehensive plan to change log export rules, including the imposition of an effective equivalency tax on both Crown and private land logs to ensure that logs harvested in BC have the ability to be utilized here in BC for the creation of direct and indirect family-supporting jobs and the corresponding tax base in our province.

AMENDED RESOLUTION 26-2009

THE FEDERATION WILL in partnership with the Canadian Labour Congress, call on the provincial and federal governments to ensure that necessary resources are made available to upgrade and maintain our water infrastructures so that all Canadians have access to publicly-owned and controlled sources of clean, safe, drinking water.

RESOLUTION 29-2009

THE FEDERATION WILL work with all affiliates to build public support for a new system of trades training and apprenticeships in which the labour movement is given an

equal voice in the governance structure, where barriers to access are reduced or eliminated and where delivery of the training programs fully utilizes the capacity of our public post-secondary institutions to deliver those programs.

RESOLUTION 31 TO COVER 32-2009

THE FEDERATION WILL call upon the government to restore public education funding to meet the needs of all students; and

THE FEDERATION WILL call upon the government to amend legislation to allow full scope collective bargaining on the issue of class size and composition; and

THE FEDERATION WILL fully support the BCTF and its members calling on parents to withdraw their children from participating in the Foundation Skills Assessment which erodes the public confidence in public education.

AMENDED RESOLUTION 33-2009

THE FEDERATION WILL demand the BC provincial government make young worker occupational health and safety education programs mandatory in all BC schools.

RESOLUTION 39-2009

THE FEDERATION WILL support universal, public postal service and oppose post office closures and the privatization or deregulation of Canada Post.

AMENDED RESOLUTION 41-2009

THE FEDERATION WILL pressure the provincial government to mount the best possible defence against the private clinics' constitutional challenge to **BC's Medicare Protection Act**; now

THE FEDERATION WILL encourage all affiliates to support the BC Health Coalition's campaign.

AMENDED RESOLUTION 44-2009

THE FEDERATION WILL raise awareness of the shortage of health sciences professionals who deliver the clinical diagnostic and rehabilitation services in BC hospitals and communities, and their importance to a strong public healthcare system.

SPECIAL RESOLUTION – DAVID RICE RETIREMENT

THE B.C. FEDERATION OF LABOUR CONVENTION WILL thank Brother Rice for all his efforts on behalf of working people; and

THIS CONVENTION WILL direct the Federation to invite Brother Rice to all future Conventions as an Honoured Delegate with the rights and privileges conferred on such Delegates by the Constitution.

sm/

P:/cat5/sm/2009 Resolutions-Resolutions adopted at Convention-Website

