



**B.C.
FEDERATION
OF LABOUR
(CLC)**

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Our File

May 25, 2007

TO: ALL AFFILIATES

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

**RE: B.C. FEDERATION OF LABOUR POLICY CONVENTION
NOVEMBER 26-28, 2007**

This year's B.C. Federation of Labour Policy Convention is being organized around the overall theme of ***Changing times, transforming our unions***. BC's working families face growing insecurity. They know their work makes BC one of the wealthiest places in the world, but global corporations are taking a growing share of that wealth – including control of our public services – while working people face insecurity and uncertainty. The Premier claims BC is the “best place on earth,” but our record of child poverty, worksafe injury and disease, stagnant wages and environmental decline don't support the message.

Labour's challenge is to confront these profound changes in our society with a renewed vision that puts our planet's environment back on track, makes us more effective in organizing working people and more successful in demonstrating our values with success at the ballot box.

This Convention will offer delegates a chance to delve deeper into three key areas:

Workshop 1: Can we change the climate before it changes us? Labour confronts the challenge of global warming

No one who has flown over the pine beetle devastation of the BC Interior can doubt the impact of global warming. Resources communities, the last to benefit from the province's economic growth, will be the first to feel the devastating impacts of climate change. Society must respond to global warming, but how can we be sure working families don't pay the price in job loss, dislocation and insecurity? This workshop will consider measures for a “just transition” to a sustainable economy. Resolutions on this topic will be restricted, in line with the constitution, to the issue of global warming.

Workshop 2: Changing workplace, changing workforce: organizing to meet the challenge of the global economy in BC communities

This workshop is focused on organizing to reverse the decline in union density. As the economy evolves, more and more workers are employed in emerging sectors without union representation. The challenge is compounded by the increasing ability of corporations to export jobs or to import temporary foreign

workers, outside the immigration system, who are vulnerable to super-exploitation.

Even employers whose jobs cannot be exported have access to contracting-out that allows them to reduce wages at will. All these factors put relentless downward pressure on wages and working conditions. This workshop will focus on the strategies necessary for unions to be relevant and effective on behalf of workers, particularly immigrants and young workers, in the new “contingent labour” economy.

Workshop 3: Reaffirming our vision: strategies for winning - mobilizing our members to participate in the democratic process municipally, provincially, federally

To ensure enduring change, we need legislative change to entrench our gains in legislation. The fight for legislative power, at every level, is the focus of this workshop. With municipal, federal and provincial elections a certainty in the next 18 months, effective political action to mobilize workers around our vision of a better world is essential.

The Policy Convention will be organized into these three workshop areas. The Executive Council has asked the Officers to extend the workshop time to half of the three-day meeting, if at all possible. We are considering other changes to the agenda and workshop format to increase the opportunity for discussion and debate, including the development of discussion papers to stimulate debate before the Convention begins.

A summary from these panel discussions will be incorporated into the last day of the Policy Convention debate, giving delegates an opportunity to provide additional input and direction to the Federation to mobilize our movement more effectively.

The Federation’s constitution specifies that at our Policy Conventions only resolutions dealing specifically with the policy areas will be put on the order of business unless the resolution is of an emergent nature. The usual rules surrounding emergency resolutions will apply to any such resolutions. With that in mind, please ensure your resolutions address this year’s policy areas and are submitted sixty (60) days prior to Convention.

We look forward to seeing you at the Convention.

In solidarity,

JIM SINCLAIR
President