

# 52<sup>nd</sup> B.C. FEDERATION OF LABOUR ANNUAL CONVENTION

NOVEMBER 24-28, 2008

## 2008 RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT CONVENTION

### **EMERGENCY RESOLUTION 1**

**THE FEDERATION WILL** support the Canadian Labour Congress boycott of Petro Canada gas stations and consumer products.

### **EMERGENCY RESOLUTION 2**

**THE FEDERATION WILL** condemn the Abbotsford School Board ban on Social Justice 12 course content addressing sexual orientation and gender identity issues; and

**THE FEDERATION WILL** reaffirm its solidarity with the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, two spirit and queer (LGBTQ) communities; and

**THE FEDERATION WILL** express our full support for the students and teachers of Abbotsford and for the teaching of the complete Social Justice 12 course in all secondary schools in BC.

### **AMENDED EMERGENCY RESOLUTION 3**

**THE FEDERATION WILL** endorse the Canadian Labour Congress paper entitled: "CLC Response to the Economic Crisis;" and

**THE FEDERATION WILL** call on the provincial government to recognize that it is working families and not just corporations that will bear the brunt of this economic crisis through layoffs, concessionary demands and job losses; and

**THE FEDERATION WILL** call on the provincial government to respond to this economic crisis with strategic measures that will create decent family supporting jobs, including:

- Investing in green economy jobs;
- Building public infrastructure such as roads, bridges, water and sewer, mass transit and retrofits to homes and public buildings to save energy;
- Working with all stakeholders in the forestry and manufacturing sectors to protect jobs and revitalize these sectors;
- Creating more training and apprenticeship programs for workers entering the job market or transitioning to other types of work; and

- Adopting a “closest to home” procurement policy for all government expenditures and projects that give preference to local, provincial and Canadian suppliers of goods and services; and

**THE FEDERATION WILL** call on the Provincial government to support the call for pension guarantee funds to be paid for by a financial transaction tax and an increase to Old Age Security benefits to protect seniors; and

**THE FEDERATION WILL** call on the Provincial government to support the call for Employment Insurance reforms so that more workers will qualify for longer periods of benefits to assist in transition to other work or recall to previous jobs when the economy rallies; and

**THE FEDERATION WILL** demand the provincial government not use the situation as an excuse for further cuts to and privatization of public services; and

**THE FEDERATION WILL** condemn any attempts to sell off our natural resources and public assets in order to address this massive failure of free market ideology.

#### **EMERGENCY RESOLUTION 4**

**THE FEDERATION WILL** send a strong message of support and solidarity to the UPCE-PSAC striking workers; and

**THE FEDERATION WILL** call upon Canada Post to negotiate a fair and just collective agreement with these striking workers immediately, and satisfactorily resolve UPCE-PSAC’s 25-year old outstanding pay equity complaint; and

**THE FEDERATION WILL** through the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) call upon Canada Post and the federal government to keep our postal service universal and public.

#### **EMERGENCY RESOLUTION 5**

**THE FEDERATION WILL** immediately demand that the provincial government conduct a full, open and province-wide consultation before any changes are made to Pharmacare; and

**THE FEDERATION WILL** demand that this consultation focus on ways to ensure Pharmacare serves the people of British Columbia first, not the drug industry.

#### **EMERGENCY RESOLUTION 6**

**THE FEDERATION WILL** through the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC):

- Demand the Canadian government guarantee the safety of Brother Gomez and his family; and
- Demand that the Prime Minister ask the President of Mexico to review Brother Gomez's case and raise our concerns about his safety; and
- Demand the federal government offer Brother Gomez permanent resident status on compassionate grounds.

### **EMERGENCY RESOLUTION 7**

**THE FEDERATION WILL**, through the CLC, join with other labour organizations internationally in calling upon the Iranian authorities to commute Kamangar's death sentence and ensure his case is reviewed fairly; and

**THE FEDERATION WILL**, through the CLC, call upon the government of Canada to call for Iranian authorities to commute Kamangar's death sentence and have his case fairly reviewed.

### **EMERGENCY RESOLUTION 8**

**THE FEDERATION WILL** call on the three opposition parties to defeat Harper's anti-worker, undemocratic legislation, bring down the government and form a coalition government to pursue economic policies that support workers facing difficult economic times.

### **EMERGENCY RESOLUTION 9**

**THE FEDERATION WILL** offer its solidarity, gratitude, thanks and love to Sister Betty Stevens and her family for a lifetime of service to working people.

### **COMPOSITE RESOLUTION TO COVER B1 – B8**

**THE FEDERATION WILL** call on all levels of government to commit to ending homelessness and to ensure an adequate supply of affordable housing (including new social, supported and cooperative housing); and

**THE FEDERATION WILL** call for a public strategy to end poverty and homelessness that includes a 'housing first' strategy, housing supports for people with disabilities, mental health and addictions issues, and preserving and improving current housing stock; and

**THE FEDERATION WILL**, in conjunction with the CLC, lobby the provincial and federal governments to alleviate poverty by providing low-income housing, increasing welfare

rates and providing increased funding to agencies dealing with the various facets of poverty; and

**THE FEDERATION WILL**, through the Canadian Labour Congress, demand that the federal government immediately commit to raising the current federal funding for social, supported, cooperative and low-income housing across Canada to a percentage of the GNP; and

**THE FEDERATION WILL** lobby the provincial government to fund subsidized housing for families, not just assisted living units; and

**THE FEDERATION WILL** endorse the 12-point program of the provincial New Democratic Party to provide provincial solutions to homelessness; and

**THE FEDERATION WILL** continue to work with community housing activists in pressuring all three levels of government to solve the homelessness and affordable housing crisis.

#### **RESOLUTION B9**

**THE FEDERATION WILL** condemn the lowering of employment standard protections for children; and

**THE FEDERATION WILL** demand that the government of BC implement real and meaningful protection for children in this province, and encourage its affiliates to also make such demands of the provincial government.

#### **RESOLUTION B11**

**THE FEDERATION WILL** work with affiliates to lobby the provincial government and undertake a public campaign to prevent the devolution of Ministry of Children and Family Development and other government ministries' programs and the contracting out of services to non-unionized employers.

#### **COMPOSITE RESOLUTION C3-C4**

**THE FEDERATION WILL** support the efforts of faculty, staff, students and community organizations who are demanding that the BC Liberals restore the 2.6 percent cut in funding to post-secondary funding; and

**THE FEDERATION WILL** also support the demand that the February 2009 provincial budget include new funding measures that will bring real per-student funding levels in post-secondary education back to the level they were in 2001; and

**THE FEDERATION WILL** write the Minister of Advanced Education and express our concern over the proposed cuts to operating grants for post-secondary institutions and the impact that those cuts will have on affordability and access for students from this

province and on the ability of post-secondary institutions to continue serving our communities.

### **COMPOSITE RESOLUTION TO COVER C9 & C10**

**THE FEDERATION WILL** call upon the government of British Columbia to ensure that the Fraser Institute does not have access to Foundation Skills Assessment data; and

**THE FEDERATION WILL** support the BCTF in any actions they take to oppose the Foundation Skills Assessment Tests.

### **AMENDED RESOLUTION C11**

**THE FEDERATION WILL** continue to demand that the government change the structure of the Industry Training Authority (ITA) so there is representation from labour and educators who play strong roles in trades and technical training in BC; and

**THE FEDERATION WILL** demand the ITA and provincial government recognize the definition of stakeholder to include labour and educators as full partners in the ITA and the Industry Training Organization (ITO) governance process; and

**THE FEDERATION WILL** lobby for increased subsidies for training and apprenticeship programs.

### **RESOLUTION C13**

**THE FEDERATION WILL** work with affiliates involved in labour market programs to both coordinate and advance our shared objectives of creating public-policy outcomes that provide positive and progressive results for workers.

### **SUBSTITUTE RESOLUTION D1**

**THE FEDERATION WILL** work with Aboriginal communities, affiliates and allies to improve the working and living conditions of Aboriginal people; and

**THE FEDERATION** will also work with the above groups to lobby all levels of government to make this a priority.

### **RESOLUTION E1**

**THE FEDERATION WILL** contact the New Democratic Party leader and legislative caucus to inform them that when they form the next provincial government in May 2009, that among their first legislative business of 2009 is the necessity for the repeal of Sections 22 and 23 of the **Workers' Compensation Act**. The language of the 1993 **Workers' Compensation Act** guaranteeing lifetime pensions of fair and adequate income for permanently disabled workers should then be implemented in the new Sections 22 and 23 of the **Act**.

### **COMPOSITE RESOLUTION TO COVER E2 & E3**

**THE FEDERATION WILL** demand that the provincial government repeal **Bill 49** and **Bill 56**, the 2002 changes that were made to the **Workers' Compensation Act**; and

**THE FEDERATION WILL** continue to work with the Public Compensation Coalition (PCC) to lobby the government to repeal this legislation.

### **AMENDED RESOLUTION E4**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that if the government fails to reverse the aforementioned legislation, the B.C. Federation of Labour consider a class action lawsuit against the government and relevant Corporations to compensate workers and their families detrimentally affected by this atrocity.

### **RESOLUTION E5**

**THE FEDERATION WILL** work with affiliates and community partners to fight efforts to restrict benefits for injured workers and their survivors and to oppose the erosion of regulations to protect the health and safety of workers and the public.

### **COMPOSITE RESOLUTION F4 & F5**

**THE FEDERATION WILL** stand opposed to **Bill 42**, the **2008 Elections Amendment Act**; and

**THE FEDERATION WILL** continue to coordinate and support the efforts of the unions that have launched a court challenge against the **2008 Elections Amendment Act**; and

**THE FEDERATION WILL** keep unions apprised of the progress of the court challenge against the **2008 Elections Amendment Act**; now

**THE FEDERATION WILL** encourage unions and their members to continue to voice their objections to the **2008 Elections Amendment Act** to their respective MLAs.

### **RESOLUTION F7**

**THE FEDERATION WILL** encourage and educate women through the CLC, Labour Councils and the affiliates to run for a political position, whether it be municipal, provincial or federal.

### **RESOLUTION G8**

**THE FEDERATION WILL**

- oppose **Bill C-484**, the "**Unborn Victims of Crime Act**" and write the government and local MPs to inform them of our position; and

- encourage affiliates to contact their local MPs and register their opposition to this **Bill**; and
- work with our allies to defeat this **Bill**.

### **AMENDED RESOLUTION H1**

**THE FEDERATION WILL** lobby the government to extend successorship rights to contract workers and their unions who work in the cleaning services, food services and security services.

### **RESOLUTION H5**

**THE FEDERATION WILL** maintain a focus on immigration issues that directly impact its members by supporting initiatives which ensure that professional artists in BC are given preference of engagement and respectfully considered for both short-term and long-term work opportunities; and

**THE FEDERATION WILL** assist professional artists in finding ways to institute a consultative immigration process which the federal government can adopt that supports artists in BC; and

**THE FEDERATION WILL** continue to use its resources to "secure provincial legislation which will safeguard and promote the principle of free collective bargaining, rights of workers and the security and welfare of all people."

### **AMENDED RESOLUTION H10**

**THE FEDERATION WILL** demand that the BC Liberal government immediately restore the former provisions of the **Employment Standards Act** as they existed in May of 2001; and

**THE FEDERATION WILL** demand that the provincial government initiate a public review of Employment Standards legislation and its administration with the objective of ensuring BC workers share in the social and economic progress of the Province, and are effectively protected against exploitation.

### **COMPOSITE RESOLUTION TO COVER H17 & H19**

#### **THE FEDERATION WILL**

- Condemn the violation of the labour rights and human rights of temporary foreign workers coming to Canada;
- Through the Canadian Labour Congress call upon the federal government to provide safeguards against the abuse of temporary foreign workers by employers in Canada;

- Assist temporary foreign workers in asserting their rights including workplace rights while in Canada; and
- Continue to work with labour allies to expose abuses of temporary foreign workers, and increase their opportunities to join a union.

### **AMENDED COMPOSITE RESOLUTION H18 & H20**

#### **THE FEDERATION WILL**

- Demand, through the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC), the federal government to immediately ban the practice of housing migrant 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;
- Lobby the federal government, through the CLC, to immediately put in place an inspection and enforcement program, including inspecting all migrant worker housing prior to and following their occupancy, and to terminate employers from the Temporary Worker Program who are found to be in non-compliance; and
- Through the CLC, lobby the federal government to provide a path to landed immigrant status for temporary foreign workers after 24 months accumulated Canadian employment.

### **RESOLUTION H23 TO COVER H22**

**THE FEDERATION WILL** support affiliates in the 2010 public sector negotiations by:

- encouraging with development of a comprehensive cross-sector bargaining strategy, in consultation affiliates;
- encouraging affiliates to commit to the principle of equity and fairness across all of the sectors;
- pledging solidarity with affiliates and their members facing the provincial government and its puppet employer associations at bargaining tables; and

**THE FEDERATION WILL** also call for an end to the gross inequities in wages and benefits between community social services workers and other workers in the public service and broader public sector.

### **RESOLUTION H31**

**THE FEDERATION WILL** oppose the use of "patient-focused" funding models for BC hospitals; and

**THE FEDERATION WILL** in cooperation with affiliates, work to educate the public about the negative impact of patient-focused funding models.

### **RESOLUTION H38**

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** we are asking the Federation of Labour to work along with the Canadian Labour Congress to lobby senior government officials provincially and federally to stop any further increases in private medical clinics or any expansion of P3s.

### **RESOLUTION H41**

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

### **RESOLUTION H42**

**THE FEDERATION WILL** call on the Auditor General to conduct an independent, comprehensive review of the highways road and bridge maintenance to assess standards, funding, resources and whether the promised benefits of privatization have been realized; and should the audit results reflect the concerns of the citizens of BC and the workers employed in highways maintenance, then the Province of BC shall return road and bridge highways maintenance to the direct public service.

### **RESOLUTION H43**

**THE FEDERATION WILL** demand the privatization of BC Hydro stop, and call for the cancellation of the Accenture contract and a halt to the letting of private power contracts that are privatizing our public resources and services.

### **AMENDED RESOLUTION H57 TO COVER H58**

#### **THE FEDERATION WILL**

- in partnership with our allies i.e., Toxic Free Canada and Council of Canadians, etc, call on the federal government to make funding available as a national priority to provincial and municipal governments to upgrade and maintain water infrastructure so that all Canadians have access to municipal sources of clean, safe drinking water;
- call on municipalities throughout BC to develop municipal water policies that will ensure that:
  - Municipal water sources are protected and actively promoted as the preferred alternative to bottled water
  - Control and operational management of water resources remains in public hands

- Citizens have access to safe, clean municipal water, including public water fountains where appropriate
- Call on municipal and community governments to increase resources for skill upgrading and certification to ensure that municipal water authorities continue to have highly qualified water management personnel on municipal staff.

### **AMENDED RESOLUTION H75**

**THE FEDERATION WILL** encourage all affiliates to support the "Save My CWB Campaign"; and

**THE FEDERATION WILL** support protests and strategies to defend the principle of the Canadian Wheat Board.

### **RESOLUTION H77**

**THE FEDERATION WILL** adopt the CLC's policy of a nationalized oil industry; and

**THE FEDERATION WILL** work with the CLC to put this sovereign policy forward as a priority in election strategies.

### **AMENDED RESOLUTION H80**

**THE FEDERATION WILL** lobby the provincial government of BC through the CLC and the federal government of Canada to provide a substantial increase in funding for re-training all forest workers who lost their jobs.

### **AMENDED RESOLUTION H86**

**THE FEDERATION WILL** support an immediate freeze on fare hikes for public transit; and

**THE FEDERATION WILL** call on TransLink and the BC government to investigate ways to mitigate the impacts of future fare hikes on low income and working people; and

**THE FEDERATION WILL** demand that the revenue from any future fare hikes is targeted directly to the expansion of the transit system and of levels of service in communities throughout BC.

### **COMPOSITE TO COVER H94 & H99**

**THE FEDERATION WILL** continue to demand measures to stop raw log exports and ensure British Columbia logs, chips and other wood products are processed in local mills in order to obtain maximum possible value for BC communities.

## **COMPOSITE TO COVER H91 THROUGH H93 AND H95 THROUGH H98**

**THE FEDERATION WILL** support measures that would increase wood manufacturing in BC including:

- Application of softwood lumber export tax revenue to a fund for forest sector investment;
- Changes to the timber-pricing system that would encourage value-added manufacturing;
- Creation of provincial and regional timber supply boards to ensure that BC logs flow to BC wood-processing facilities; and
- Training, retraining and skills upgrading programs for forest sector workers.

## **RESOLUTION H110 TO COVER H109**

**THE FEDERATION WILL** continue to oppose any trade deal between Canada and Colombia as long as the Colombian government remains tied to paramilitary and criminal organizations and until it ceases its practices of impunity for and involvement in crimes against trade unionists, human rights activists, marginalized civilians and others; and

**THE FEDERATION WILL** insist upon verifiable evidence that it is in compliance with international labour rights standards, provides acceptable protection for unions and workers and ensures justice for victims of the current culture of state sanctioned assassinations, disappearances, violence, displacement and other criminal acts, both in law and in practice, prior to any trade agreement discussions with Colombia.

## **RESOLUTION H116 TO COVER H113**

**THE FEDERATION WILL** support the War Resisters campaign to allow war resisters to become residents of Canada and demand that the deportation of War resisters be stopped immediately.

## **RESOLUTION H117**

**THE FEDERATION WILL** endorse and support the "Hands off Venezuela" Campaign.

## **AMENDED RESOLUTION H120 TO COVER H119**

**THE FEDERATION WILL** support the defendants in the lawsuit filed against them by CanWest Media Works Publication Inc. over a parody edition of the Vancouver Sun.

## **RESOLUTION H125**

**THE FEDERATION WILL** through the Canadian Labour Congress call on the federal government to:

- 1) Take decisive action to identify the manufacturing industry as a strategic sector in Canada's economic development; and
- 2) Undertake a comprehensive review of the causes and consequences of manufacturing job loss; and
- 3) Establish a sectoral task force to review ways Canada can strengthen the manufacturing sector; and
- 4) Establish adequate programs such as enhanced unemployment benefits and transition programs to assist Canadian workers who are losing their jobs.

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