



RESOLUTIONS

Canadian Labour Congress Convention

CARD-CHECK CERTIFICATION

THE CLC WILL: co-ordinate a country wide campaign to restore card-check certification as the standard process for workers to achieve unionization in every province and territory in Canada. This campaign will involve affiliates, federations of labour, labour councils and community allies, with the dedicated resources needed to effectively mobilize in workplaces and communities to attain this crucial goal.

ORGANIZING

THE CLC WILL: set a goal of organizing one million unrepresented workers over the next decade, starting with establishing a task force of union organizing directors to consider the best experiences in sector-wide and community based organizing, and what structures should be created within our movement to ensure that adequate resources and leadership are devoted to this essential task.

MADE IN CANADA MATTERS

THE CLC WILL: undertake a campaign to ensure Canadian procurement policies are adopted by all provinces, municipalities and other public institutions. The first phase of this campaign will target majority Canadian content for all transit vehicles and the second phase will highlight furniture, workwear, paper products and other key material they purchase.

UNFAIR TRADE AND INTEGRATION

THE CLC WILL: mobilize to demand the renegotiation of unfair trade deals that destroy jobs and threaten the future of Canada's sovereignty, and to oppose the continental integration agenda of corporate Canada.

TEMPORARY AGENCIES

THE CLC WILL: work with affiliates, federations of labour and community allies to develop a long-term strategy to confront and restrict the use of temporary agencies and temporary status employees, as well as other forms of precarious employment, in every sector of the economy

MINIMUM WAGE

THE CLC WILL: work with affiliates, federations of labour, labour councils and community allies to support on-going campaigns in every province to raise the minimum wage above the poverty line.

PRIVATIZATION

THE CLC WILL: work to expose and oppose privatization and public-private partnerships which threaten to undermine and erode public services, public assets and public accountability within our society,

GREEN JOBS

THE CLC WILL: make a priority of developing a green jobs strategy for key sectors of the economy, building on the Green Jobs Project first adopted at the 1999 convention.

EQUITY

THE CLC WILL: work with affiliates, federations, labour councils and community allies to build a strong practice of equity and inclusion at all levels of the labour movement in Canada.

PEACE

THE CLC WILL: call for an end to the war in Afghanistan and continue to work with partners in the Canadian Peace Alliance to educate Canadians about the war.

LABOUR COUNCILS

THE CLC WILL: actively engage its affiliates in a rigorous process of strengthening the capacity of Labour Councils across the country to undertake the sustained grass-roots organizing needed to rebuild labour's political power at the local level, and will ensure that Labour Councils have adequate funding for this essential task



CARD CHECK

Campaign Outline - 2008-2011

If we are serious about building labour power, we need to create powerful campaigns that can effectively mobilize in both workplaces and communities. To win something as vital as card-check certification will take much more than a legislative lobby. We will need to connect real organizing drives back to a central message – that unions make a difference in people’s lives.

CAMPAIGN ELEMENTS:

- ✓ Commitment from the labour movement to create multi-year campaign with adequate funding and dedicated staffing to succeed – a minimum of half a million dollars as an annual budget for the project
- ✓ Engage key community allies – immigrant organizations, youth, social justice, anti-poverty activists – and create formal alliance with a strong commitment to a common goal, as happened in the Minimum Wage campaign and the American Rights @Work coalition
- ✓ Develop a campaign steering committee, and determine accountability for carrying out the necessary work internally and externally
- ✓ Start massive education effort among all union memberships – through individual unions, OFL, CLC, and labour councils – with both a common message and messages tailored to different sectors or communities of interest
- ✓ Craft a powerful public message, with material in various languages
- ✓ Shape media strategy including mainstream, community and ethnic media, and identify spokespersons for the campaign.
- ✓ Each union’s internal organizers to be responsible for taking the issue to every local union, bargaining unit, committees and stewards body in the province for thorough discussion with members about what this fight will entail once business starts to push back. Undertake full breakdown of members by postal code to be able to target communications and possible phone banking
- ✓ Each union to identify key activists in select ridings across Ontario to undertake a relentless MPP lobby
- ✓ Determine how to resource this work in immigrant organizations, women’s, youth, anti-poverty and social justice groups

This campaign has to be powerful enough to both pressure the Ontario government to commit to card-check, and to withstand the backlash from business once legislation is introduced.

The need for public rallies, demonstrations, and “political theatre” will be woven through the campaign. How to partner with the NDP, how to win support within the government caucus, and how to maintain focus on this issue when many other pressing items demand attention – all these need to be carefully determined.

This will not be a six month effort – the window of opportunity may not appear for some time. Our commitment needs to be for at least this entire government mandate, and even past the next election. There is no guarantee of success, but it is better than the alternative. Nobody wants to watch union density continue to erode in Ontario, and somehow believe we can win this fight with fewer human and financial resources sometime in the future.