



TENTH CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

**Port Elgin, Ontario
October, 2011**

RESOLUTIONS

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RESOLUTION No. 1- CANADIAN EUROPEAN COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC AND TRADE AGREEMENT (C.E.T.A.)

(Submitted by the CAW 524 Retirees Chapter and CAW Area Council – Ajax, Oshawa, Peterborough)

WHEREAS talks between the Canadian Government (2010) and the European Government are going on and most Canadian have no idea what is being discussed behind closed doors in secret.

WHEREAS Canadians need to be fully informed on the intentions of these secret talks that could change the way things are to be done in Canada, and Canadians need to know now.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT our government provide full disclosure on the topics up for discussion and keep us fully informed of their intentions to make any changes in our trade agreement and we call on all delegates to become more aware of the CETA that could change a Canadian's way of life we have come to expect. We need to take this up with our members of parliament and the Prime Minister.

RESOLUTION No. 2- OLD AGE SECURITY

(Submitted by the CAW 524 Retirees Chapter and CAW Area Council – Ajax, Oshawa, Peterborough)

WHEREAS in a civil society our aim has been the eradication of all forms of poverty, and.

WHEREAS poverty continues to effect our elderly women and men who have a very difficult time to purchase the necessary items they need to maintain themselves in their homes, and

WHEREAS the cost of living has eaten away at their low and fixed

incomes, and

WHEREAS a higher burden of unfair taxes has been taken away by government.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT we call on the federal government to increase the Old Age Security by 50% over the next five years.

RESOLUTION No. 3- HARMONIZED SALES TAX

(Submitted by the CAW 524 – Ajax, Oshawa, Peterborough Area Retirees Council)

WHEREAS the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) put into affect in 2010 has resulted in a very unfair tax to people in Ontario and other provinces. This tax is not based on income and therefore places a heavy burden on lower income people in Canada. This unfair tax on home heating is creating large financial concerns for all Canadians and the unfair application of this tax on gasoline and diesel fuel is also unjust to all Canadians.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT we call on the government to remove the HST on all home heating costs, gasoline and diesel fuels.

RESOLUTION No. 4- PHARMACARE

(Submitted by the CAW 524 – CAW Area Council)

WHEREAS Canadians do not have a universal pharmacare plan and many Canadian are not getting the medication they require because of the high cost of drugs that are prescribed by doctors, and

WHEREAS the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives released a ground-

breaking study in 2010 showing that a National Drug Insurance Plan could save Canadians up to 10.7 billion in drug costs.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT we call on the federal government to establish a National Pharmacare Program at least as good as the best Provincial Pharmacare, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT we demand the federal government to establish a National Drug Formula with sufficient resources to be able to give information to both doctors and the public on the quality, safety and effectiveness of drugs therefore breaking the unhealthy relationship between doctors and drug manufactures which leads to over prescribing, and in many instances, of prescribing of inferior and more expensive drugs.

RESOLUTION No. 5 - PHARMACARE

(Submitted by the CURC Executive)

The CURC will continue to work closely with the Canadian Health Coalition and the Canadian Labour Congress to promote a national pharmacare program

Because the rising cost of drugs represents a increasing threat to both negotiated plans and to Medicare itself, and

Because the experience in other countries has shown that there will be a significant savings if there is a national pharmacare program.

RESOLUTION No. 6- TERMINATION OF DEFINED BENEFIT PLANS

(Submitted by the CURC Executive)

The CURC will lobby the Federal Government and the Government of Saskatchewan to implement legislation to protect retirees from any loss of pension income due to terminations of Defined Benefit Pension Plans.

Because employees/retirees under federal jurisdiction, the territories and the Province of Saskatchewan do not have this protection as they do in all other provinces.

Because some employers have started to use this gap in the law to terminate defined benefit plans even though the employer is not going bankrupt.

RESOLUTION No. 7 - CPP\QPP

(Submitted by the CURC Executive)

CURC in cooperation with the Canadian Labour Congress will continue to push strongly ahead on its campaign to expand the CPP and QPP

Because without an expanded CPP and QPP the economic needs of many retirees will not be met.

RESOLUTION No. 8-Guaranteed Income Supplement

(Submitted by the CURC Executive)

CURC will continue to lobby to have the Federal Government increase the Guaranteed Income Supplement so that no seniors, especially women, live below the poverty line

Because many seniors continue to live in poverty due to increases in basic necessities of life such as heat, hydro, food and shelter;and

Because women seniors are particularly vulnerable as they worked disproportionately in low-paid, unstable and part-time employment

RESOLUTION No. 9 - INVESTMENT CANADA

(Submitted by the CURC Executive)

CURC will call upon the Federal Government to amend the Investment Canada Act so that

- undertakings entered into by foreign purchasers are transparent, public, fair and enforceable, and;
- the interests of Canadians are protected, and the net benefits to Canada are measurable, and;
- unions and workers can play a meaningful role in the review process for proposed foreign takeovers.

Because the experience of the Harper government in applying this act has been disastrous for Canadian workers as seen by the actions of Vale, and U.S.Steel Canada, among others, which have closed or shut down Canadian operations while maintaining operations in their home countries and supplying the Canadian market from off shore.

RESOLUTION No. 10 - TWO TIER WAGES AND PENSIONS

(Submitted by the CURC Executive)

CURC states its absolute opposition to the efforts of employers and governments to establish two tier wages and two tier pension benefits

Because the examples of Vale-Inco, US Steel, Air Canada and Canada Post

have shown how wide spread this attack on workers is and

Because an attack on the next generation of workers is an attack on our children and grandchildren

RESOLUTION No. 11- DAY OF MOURNING

(Submitted by the CURC Executive)

CURC will work with the CLC to engage the ITUC to work with ILO and WHO for the eventual UN recognition of the Day of Mourning , April 28

Because each year 2 million workers die, 1.2 million are injured and more than 160 million fall ill because of dangerous workplaces, and

Because the Day of Mourning (April 28) was adopted by the Canadian Labour Congress in 1986 to honour workers killed and injured on the job, and

Because the House of Commons passed Rod Murphy's Private Member's bill to recognize April 28 officially in Canada as the Day of Mourning; and

Because the following countries have followed Canada's lead; Argentina, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Bermuda, Columbia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Great Britain, Greece, Luxemburg, Panama, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Taiwan, Ukraine and Venezuela; and
Because the International Trade Union Confederation has paved the way at the UN since 2006 for a global day to commemorate dead and injured workers.

RESOLUTION No. 12- PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN CURC

(Submitted by the CURC Executive)

CURC will continue to encourage women to hold positions on the CURC Executive

BECAUSE it is important that both women and men be equally involved in CURC.

RESOLUTION No. 13- CURC AFFILIATION AND MEMBERSHIP FEES

(Submitted by the CURC Executive)

WHEREAS costs to communicate with the members and to run conventions has increased since the founding of CURC in 1993 and

WHEREAS we want to provide time for everyone to adjust to an increase in fees

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Article 4 be amended to read effective January 1, 2013:

Section 1: Local branches, clubs or chapters of union retirees' organizations affiliated to CURC shall pay an annual affiliation fee on the following basis: up to fifty (50) members twenty-five (25) dollars per year; fifty-one (51) members to two hundred and fifty (250) members one hundred (100) dollars per year, two hundred and fifty-one (251) members to five hundred (500) members two hundred (200) dollars per year, five hundred and one (501) members to one thousand (1000) members three hundred (300) dollars per year, over one thousand (1000) members five hundred (500) dollars.

Section 2 – no change

Section 3 – no change

Section 4 Each national/international union retiree organization of CLC affiliaters shall pay an annual fee on the following basis: up to fifty (50) members twenty-five (25) dollars per year; fifty-one (51) members to two hundred and fifty (250) members one hundred (100) dollars per year, two

hundred and fifty-one (251) members to five hundred (500) members two hundred (200) dollars per year, five hundred and one (501) members to one thousand (1000) members three hundred (300) dollars per year, over one thousand (1000) members five hundred (500) dollars.

Section 5 The fee for individual membership in the Congress of Union Retirees of Canada shall be twenty (20) dollars for an individual and thirty (30) dollars for a couple. If the fees are paid for three year period in one payment, the fee for an individual shall be fifty (50) dollars and for a couple eighty (80) dollars. These fees shall apply to retired members and to active members who have reached the age of fifty (50)

Section 6 – no change

RESOLUTION No. 14- MEMBERS AT LARGE ON THE CURC EXECUTIVE

(Submitted by the CURC Executive)

WHEREAS it is important for CURC to increase the participation of women, visible minorities and aboriginals in CURC; and
Whereas although CURC has established two member-at-large positions on the Executive to undertake this effort, these duties need to be clearer

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Article V Section 1 be amended to read

The Executive Committee shall consist of: President; First Vice-President; Second Vice-President; Treasurer; Recording Secretary; and two members-at-large, one of whom shall represent women and one of whom shall represent visible minorities and aboriginals

The Executive Committee shall meet at the call of the President.
And

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Article VI be amended by renumbering the current Section 6 as Section 7 and adding a new Section 6 to read:

Section 6 Members-At-Large of the Executive

The duties of the Member-At-Large for Women are to promote and increase the participation of women at all levels of CURC and to attend the relevant CLC Committee meetings and others activities when finances of CURC permit.

The duties of the Member-At-Large for Visible Minorities and Aboriginals are to promote and increase the participation of visible minorities and aboriginals at all levels of CURC and to attend the relevant CLC Committee meetings and other activities when finances of CURC permit.

RESOLUTION No. 15- BANKUPTCIES AND PENSIONS

(Submitted by the CURC Executive)

WHEREAS both pensioners and current workers have had their benefits reduced or lost altogether when a firm declares bankruptcy; and

WHEREAS the problem arises because pension funds are treated as an unsecured creditors in bankruptcy proceedings; and

WHEREAS although some provinces such as Manitoba have taken action to try to limit this problem, bankruptcy is fundamentally a federal jurisdiction

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT CURC in cooperation with the labour movement undertake a lobby of the federal political parties to change the law to make pension funds a secured creditor under bankruptcy proceedings.

RESOLUTION No. 16- RIGHT TO SUBMIT RESOLUTIONS TO CURC CONVENTIONS

(Submitted by the CURC Executive)

WHEREAS area councils of CURC are playing an increasingly important role in lobbying for improvements in pensions, health care and other issues; and

WHEREAS Article VII Section 9 makes no explicit provision for them to submit resolutions and is unclear on the right of federations

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Article VII Section 9 be amended to read:

Section 9: To be accepted by the Convention, a resolution must be submitted by an affiliated local organization of union retirees, a municipal or regional division thereof, a federation, national affiliate, organizations representing retired officers and staff of affiliated unions and CLC; or the Executive Committee CURC, its federations or its area councils, be signed by the presiding officer and secretary; sent to the Recording Secretary no later than sixty (60) days before the Convention; and be limited to one hundred and fifty (150) words and one (1) topic.

RESOLUTION No. 17- RESOLUTION ON MEMBERSHIP

(Submitted by the CURC Executive)

WHEREAS CURC brings together the retirees of CLC affiliates and encourages spouses of union members to join and be active in their area council

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Article III Section 1 (a) be amended to read

Local branches, clubs or chapters of union retirees' organizations of CLC affiliates

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Article III Section 1 (f) be amended to read

Individual union retirees of CLC affiliates and their spouses may directly join CURC and participate in area councils and federations.

RESOLUTION No. 18 - GENERIC DRUGS

(submitted by the Fédération des Syndicalistes à la Retraite du Québec FTQ)

The Congress of Union Retirees Canada (CURC) and its allies must pressure the governments and the insurance companies to ensure that seniors who have been taking a certain drug for more than ten years are not made to change this drug without their consent, even for a generic drug;

Because although we support generic drugs without restriction, we consider that seniors become insecure when this change is made without their consent;

Because the emotional well-being of a person is more important than the monetary benefits.

RESOLUTION No. 19 - MINISTERIAL MEETING

(submitted by the Fédération des Syndicalistes à la Retraite du Québec)

The Congress of Union Retirees Canada (CURC) and its allies must pressure the federal and provincial governments so that the Ministers responsible for seniors meet at least once a year with the objective of improving care and services;

Because this would allow us to see how serious each government really is and give us an occasion to influence their decisions.

RESOLUTION No. 20 - LACK OF SERVICES

(submitted by the Fédération des Syndicalistes à la Retraite du Québec)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Congress of Union Retirees Canada (CURC), the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) and its provincial federations of labour denounce the lack of services to seniors living in long term care facilities and pressure the governments to provide at least a minimum of services to these senior residents.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT they demand, amongst other things, that there be a physical surveillance at night on each floor of the establishment;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT they also demand that the minimalist policy of one bath per week be respected.

RESOLUTION No. 21 - CANADIAN EUROPEAN TRADE AGREEMENT

(Submitted by the Municipal Retirees Organization Ontario)

Whereas CURC has taken a strong position to have Pharmacare implemented to bring down the cost of prescription drugs with bulk purchases and implementation of non-generic drug maintained at an affordable level to the governments of Canada and its people.; and

Whereas the Canadian European Trade Agreement (CETA) would increase drug costs by extending the patents for drugs produced by the large European drug companies; and

Whereas there looms a new invader to quash any attempts to succeed in this endeavour of Pharmacare the Government of Canada has been negotiating with the European Union "The Canadian European Trade Agreement" or "CETA" for some months now has its eyes on the Canadian market for dispersion of European manufactured drugs which will most certainly cripple the Canadian people.

Therefore Be It Resolved that CURC will work with other retirees' organizations and other like thinking organizations to oppose CETA and any other agreement that would increase the costs of drugs in Canada; and

Be It Further Resolved that CURC will bring one strong voice to the Government of Canada not to enter into any agreement that will cause harm to the Canadian Health Care System by exposure to the greed of the European pharmacy companies by granting them extensive brand protection rights from the introduction of Canadian made non-generic drugs.

RESOLUTION No. 22 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS

(Submitted by CURC Executive)

CURC will campaign to safeguard defined benefit pension plans; and

CURC will educate members about the dangers of changing to defined contribution pension plans; and

CURC will continue to support Unions who are organizing to stop the conversion of defined benefit to defined contribution pension plans.

Because Employers and some Governments are attacking defined benefit pension plans; and

Because defined pension plans provide retirement security for workers; and

Because Employers are trying to replace defined benefit pension plans with defined contribution pension plans.

RESOLUTION No. 23 - UNIVERSAL PUBLIC POSTAL SERVICE

(Submitted by CURC Executive)

CURC will continue to support universal public postal service and oppose post office closures and the privatization or deregulation of Canada Post.

Because political trends favouring commercialization are changing public-owned post offices around the world into commercially driven businesses through liberalization, privatization and deregulation; and

Because our public post office plays a key role in our social and economic life by providing the infrastructure that healthy communities need to thrive and businesses need to grow; and

Because our post offices connect people locally, nationally and globally, helping us to overcome differences and distances; and

Because Canada Post would not have to consider the public's interest if it was privatized; and

Because deregulation would threaten revenues, services and jobs at Canada Post and would jeopardize its ability to provide universal service and a uniform standard rate.

RESOLUTION No. 24 - ABOLISH THE SENATE

[Submitted by the Hamilton, Burlington and Oakville Area Council of CURC]

CURC will lobby all Federal political parties urging them to support legislation to abolish the Canadian Senate; and

CURC will lobby all provincial and territorial governments urging them to support legislation to abolish the Canadian Senate.

Because the Senate costs the Canadian public millions of dollars per year for little or no value;

Because the Senate is a depository for failed politicians and political hacks; and

Because the savings generated by abolishing the Senate are needed to fund social programmes such as health care and improved pensions.

RESOLUTION No. 25- LABOUR RELATIONS-ANTI-SCAB LEGISLATION

[Submitted by the Hamilton, Burlington and Oakville Area Council of CURC]

CURC will urge the Federal Government to introduce and support legislation banning the use of Temporary Replacement Workers during a strike or lock out; and

CURC will urge all provincial and territorial governments that have not banned the use of Temporary Replacement Workers to introduce and support legislation banning the use of Temporary Replacement Workers during a strike or lock out.

Because Anti Temporary Replacement Workers laws exist in Quebec since 1978; British Columbia since 1993; and successive governments in those provinces have not repealed those laws;

Because the use of Temporary Replacement Workers during a strike or lock out creates divisiveness and prolongs the labour dispute; and

Because the use of Temporary Replacement Workers during a strike or lock out is damaging to the social fabric of a community in both the short and long term.

RESOLUTION No. 26 - LABOUR RELATIONS-END LOCK OUTS

[Submitted by the Hamilton, Burlington and Oakville Area Council of CURC]

CURC will urge the Federal Government to introduce and support legislation permitting the government to legislate employers to end lock outs of employees; and

CURC will urge all provincial and territorial governments to introduce and support legislation permitting the government[s] to legislate employers to end lock outs of employees.

Because there is no legislative provision for ordering an employer to end a lock out of employees thereby protracting the labour dispute;

Because employers such as US Steel have used protracted lock outs of employees to both undermine unions and employees to win concessions; and

Because employers should be treated with equity and therefore should be subject to legislation that will end lock outs.

RESOLUTION No. 27 - ASBESTOS HYPOCRISY

[Submitted by the Hamilton, Burlington and Oakville Area Council of CURC]

CURC, through the CLC, urge the federal government to recognize that chrysotile asbestos is a hazardous material; and

CURC, through the CLC, urge the federal government to support the placement of chrysotile asbestos on the United Nations list of hazardous exports.

Because the International Labour Organization [ILO] has told the

Canadian Government to adopt the "strictest standard limits for the protection of workers' health as regards exposure to asbestos";

Because Canada has consistently ignored scientific, technical and health information concerning the dangers of the exposure to asbestos;

Because the Canadian Government has refused to put chrysotile asbestos on the United Nations list of hazardous exports; Canada has been accused of hypocrisy and being a merchant of death; and

Because the Canadian Governments actions have been condemned by virtually every health advocacy, environmental, medical and labour organization in Canada.

RESOLUTION No. 28 -DEATH WITH DIGNITY

[Submitted by the Hamilton, Burlington and Oakville Area Council of CURC]

CURC support legislation to permit physician-assisted suicide for consenting adults who are terminally ill.

Because terminally ill individuals should have the right to choose how much suffering they wish to endure.

Because the major benefactors of prolonging life for the terminally ill are pharmaceutical companies; and

Because every individual deserves the dignity of choice.

RESOLUTION No. 29 - CANADA NEEDS GOOD GREEN JOBS

[Submitted by the Hamilton, Burlington and Oakville Area Council of CURC]

CURC call upon the federal government and all the provincial and

territorial governments to develop and adopt policies that will assist in the growth of sustainable and restorative economies; and

Such policies will focus on the development of good green jobs in these expanding sectors.

Because the manufacturing base of our economy is necessary to create the tangible wealth that provides for the prosperity of all Canadians;

Because in the past our manufacturing sector has been devastated by plant closures and lay-offs;

Because the manufacture, installation and maintenance of green technologies and practices are becoming key sources of job growth and business expansion; and

Because the maintenance and expansion of adequate pensions, health care and other social services depends upon a vigorous and sustainable economy.

RESOLUTION No. 30 - RETIREES ON UNION EXECUTIVE COUNCILS/BOARDS

[Submitted by the Ottawa Area Council]

The Congress of Union Retirees of Canada (CURC) will urge all Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) affiliates, provincial and territorial federations of labour, labour councils and union locals to establish a seat on their executive councils/boards for a union retiree.

The objectives of this strategy are:

- to keep union retirees connected with their union and union values.
- to give union retirees a voice on matters that relate to them, such as pensions, benefits, health care, etc.
- to provide union retirees an opportunity to participate in labour

sponsored events, campaigns, etc.

-to provide unions with knowledgeable and experienced support for events, campaigns, etc.

-to educate union leaders and workers about CURC.

-to promote CURC in workplaces, especially among workers who are nearing retirement.

-to promote CURC membership benefits for union retirees.

-And to encourage eligible union members/retirees to join CURC.

RESOLUTION No. 31 - RETIREMENT SECURITY FOR EVERYONE

[Submitted by the Ottawa Area Council]

The Congress of Union Retirees of Canada (CURC) will continue to support the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) Retirement Security for Everyone Campaign to pressure the federal and provincial governments to double CPP/QPP benefits from 25% to 50% of average earnings through a phased-in increase of employer and employee premiums; to increase the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) by 15% to a level sufficient to eliminate poverty among the elderly; and establish a federal system of mandatory national pension insurance.

CURC will expose the flaws and inferiority of the private sector Pooled Registered Pension Plans (PRPPs) being promoted by the federal government and the insurance industry, and expose self-interested industry lobbying for PRPPs.

CURC will also work with other retirees', pensioners', senior citizens', community groups, unions and other like-minded organizations, groups and individuals to inform Canadians of our Retirement Security Campaigns.

RESOLUTION No. 32 -CURC COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

[Submitted by the Ottawa Area Council]

The executive of the Congress of Union Retirees of Canada (CURC) is empowered add a retiree who has the required skills to perform the duties of a communications officer to its executive. The communications officer shall:

- advise the executive on communications matters.
- take the lead in the preparation and circulation of communications materials under the direction of the executive.
- assist with the CURC website (www.unionretiree.ca), which could include preparing and posting material, such as articles and reports from area councils.
- Assist with the preparation and circulation of the CURC magazine Union Retiree.
- explore and implement communications platforms, such as but not limited to, FaceBook, Twitter and Youtube, under the direction of the executive.
- Prepare a communications strategy document for presentation and discussion at the next CURC Convention in 2012

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