



11th Constitutional Convention

Ottawa, Ontario

October 23 – 25, 2013

**Resolutions Adopted by Convention
and Executive**

A - CONSTITUTION

A - 1. Article II

BE IT RESOLVED that Article II be amended by adding:

- ⤴ Section 5 – To encourage all unions to organize their retirees into clubs or chapters at the local level with a provincial and/national structure as appropriate.
- ⤴ Section 6 – To organize viable provincial\territorial federations of union retirees and local area councils of CURC with their full participation with the appropriate CLC chartered body.
- ⤴ Section 7 – To encourage individual membership in CURC

A - 2. Article V-Section 1

BE IT RESOLVED that Article V Section 1 be amended by adding a new second paragraph:

- ⤴ The Executive Committee, following every convention, can name a person responsible for communications matters to advise both the Committee and full Executive. This person will be entitled to a delegate credential to attend the CURC Convention.

A - 3. Article VII-Section 12 (4)

BE IT RESOLVED that Article VII, Section 12 (4) be amended to read:

- ⤴ Speeches shall be limited up to three (3) minutes, except in moving a resolution, when the delegates shall be allowed up to five (5) minutes.

B. CLC CAMPAIGNS – ATTACK ON UNIONS

B - 2. “Together Fairness Works”

BE IT RESOLVED that the CURC a participate fully in the labour movement's campaign, “Together Fairness Works, to inform friends, neighbours, and relatives in our communities of what is at stake; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the CURC, its provincial bodies and Area Councils actively oppose all legislation which seeks to undermine the strength of unions such as Bill C-377 and Bill C-525; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the CURC work with its provincial bodies and Area Councils to lobby politicians at all three levels of government on the importance of unions and good labour laws to maintain a good community.

B - 5. Bill C-377, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act (Labour Organizations)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Congress of Union Retirees of Canada (CURC) oppose Bill C-377, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act (Labour Organizations); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CURC lobby the federal government to abandon its implementation of Bill C-377, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act (Labour Organizations).

C. HOME CARE

C - 1. Home Care Lobby

BE IT RESOLVED that the Congress of Union Retirees of Canada (CURC) lobby the federal government to add the provision of “Home Care” to the guaranteed services provided and funded by Medicare.

C - 2. Long Term and Personal Care Home Standards

BE IT RESOLVED that the Congress of Union Retirees of Canada (CURC) lobby the federal government to establish a publicly administered body to implement standards, accreditation, regulation and supervision of care in long term care and personal care facilities.

C - 3. Caregiver Training

BE IT RESOLVED that the Congress of Union Retirees of Canada (CURC) lobby the federal government to provide free or low-cost community based training initiatives on the needs and care of older adults.

C - 4. Community-based Social Services

BE IT RESOLVED that the CURC will:

- ⤴ Lobby the federal government to update the Canada Social Transfer to provide adequate, sustainable and predictable funding to Community-based Social Services; and
- ⤴ Educate its members and the public about the important role that the CST plays in keeping Canadians and their communities healthy and economically viable; and
- ⤴ Raise awareness among clients, their families and the general public about working conditions for CSS workers including concerns about high caseloads, violence and other health and safety issues; and
- ⤴ Oppose all efforts to introduce private-for-profit mechanisms, including Social Impact Bonds, for funding and delivering CSS; and
- ⤴ Work with and support organizations that defend the role of CSS and its workers with special emphasis on those that bring together clients and their families with the service providers.

C - 6. Senior Abuse

BE IT RESOLVED that in order to counter senior abuse, CURC will pressure governments to raise awareness and improve public knowledge of this phenomenon.

D. PENSIONS

D - 4. Defined Benefit Pension Plans

BE IT RESOLVED that the Congress of Union Retirees of Canada work with the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) and other allies to support efforts of Unions to maintain Defined Benefit Pension Plans and publicly advocate for Defined Benefit Pension Plans.

D - 5. Pension Protection - Bankruptcy

BE IT RESOLVED that in order to protect the pension benefits which workers have earned, CURC calls upon the Government of Canada and each provincial and territorial government to revise bankruptcy laws, in order to prevent any employer in bankruptcy, from gaining possession of the funds to make the pension trust funds solvent and its earnings, which the employer administers.

D - 7. Quality Pensions and Retirement Security for All

BE IT RESOLVED that the Congress of Union Retirees of Canada will:

- ⤴ Work to engage Canadians in a conversation about the positive impact pensions have in providing seniors with decent retirement income and creating a strong and healthy economy; and
- ⤴ Forcefully respond to the assault against defined-benefit pension plans being led by some provincial governments, the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) and like-minded think tanks; and
- ⤴ Fight for expansion of the Canada Pension Plan and the Guaranteed Income Supplement as practical solutions to Canada's growing retirement security crisis; and
- ⤴ Develop a strategy to achieve joint trusteeship of all major pension plans where we have not yet achieved this objective; and
- ⤴ Develop and promote strategies to ensure our members' pension funds are invested in a socially responsible manner.

D - 9. The Future of the Quebec Retirement System (D'Amours Committee)

BE IT RESOLVED that the CURC and the QFUR actively oppose the D'Amours Committee Report.

E. HEALTH AND PHARMACARE

E - 1. Canada's Medicare

BE IT RESOLVED that the CURC will:

- ⤴ Defend our Medicare against all forms of privatization, for-profit delivery and private insurance; and
- ⤴ Demand the Harper government renew the Health Accord with the provinces based on the principles of the 2004 agreement; and
- ⤴ Demand a national health human resources strategy for Health Professionals; and
- ⤴ Lobby for a national Pharmacare program; and
- ⤴ Campaign for a national Home Care program based on the principles of the Canada Health Act; and
- ⤴ Demand access to high-quality, publicly funded and managed Long-term Care services for all Canadians; and
- ⤴ Lobby for the inclusion of dental programs under Canada's Medicare system; and
- ⤴ Lobby for the expanded use of information technologies and electronic health records in our Medicare system; and
- ⤴ Push for increased access and use of community-based health care teams; and
- ⤴ Argue for improved prevention and public health initiatives; and
- ⤴ Demand better chronic care management for Canadians suffering from chronic health conditions.

E - 2. Mental Health Services for all Canadians

BE IT RESOLVED that the CURC will:

- ⤴ Lobby the federal government to act on the recommendations of the Mental Health Commission and provide the necessary funding to the provinces to implement the recommendations; and
- ⤴ Lobby provincial governments to restore, enhance and expand health care services, both facility and community-based, for people living with mental health and addiction problems; and
- ⤴ Inform the public about the crisis of people with mental health and addiction problems in Canada's justice system with emphasis on provincial jurisdictions; and
- ⤴ Lobby provincial governments to take immediate steps to provide alternative services for offenders with mental health and serious addiction problems or, where this is not possible, increased programs and supports for these offenders; and
- ⤴ Educate its members and the public about mental health and addiction problems with the goal of eliminating the stigma against people with these problems; and

- ✧ With its affiliates and members, bargain for increased support for members who are experiencing mental health or addiction problems.

E - 4. Post- Retirement Health Care Benefits

BE IT RESOLVED that the Congress of Union Retirees of Canada (CURC) work with the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) and other allies to support Unions that are working to maintain and expand post-retirement health care benefits for current and future retirees.

E - 6. Health Council of Canada

BE IT RESOLVED that the Congress of Union Retirees of Canada work with the Canadian Labour Congress and other allies to pressure the federal government to:

- 1) Protect and maintain the financial support for the Health Council of Canada; and
- 2) Reverse their position on major cuts to the Federal Transfer Payments commencing in 2014

E - 7. Health & Wellness Programs

BE IT RESOLVED that the Congress of Union Retirees of Canada (CURC) lobby the federal government to make health and wellness programs for seniors and retirees a priority; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CURC lobby the federal government to provide tax incentives for seniors and retirees who participate in health and wellness programs.

E - 8. Pharmacare

BE IT RESOLVED that the Congress of Union Retirees of Canada (CURC) lobby the federal government to phase in a national prescription drug strategy, which would begin with coverage for key catastrophic drug costs with gradual expansion of coverage as finance permit, until the plan is universal in application; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CURC lobby the federal government to phase out the “evergreening” of patent drugs so cheaper generics are available, saving money for the health care system, patients, hospitals and provinces; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CURC lobby the federal government to ban the direct-to-consumer advertising of pharmaceuticals so there is less unnecessary prescribing of drug therapies.

E - 9. Primary Health Care

BE IT RESOLVED that the Congress of Union Retirees of Canada (CURC) lobby the federal government to support and promote the “Primary Health Care Model” of health care delivery across the country.

E - 10. Humanitarian Needs

BE IT RESOLVED that CURC call upon the federal government to re-introduce legislation to strengthen the Canadian Access to Medication Regime (CAMR) and give it the required powers to provide generic drugs to impoverished countries and save thousands of lives.

E - 13. Universal Drug Plan

BE IT RESOLVED that the CURC call upon all its area councils to speak with one voice demanding that the Federal, Provincial and territorial governments negotiate a universal drug plan.

E - 15. Cancer Cure

BE IT RESOLVED that we call upon all levels of government and agencies to pool their resources in a concerted effort to find a cure; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the CURC call upon the Government of Canada to pledge resources and commit to finding a cure, and address known causes of Cancer within the next ten years.

F. FEDERAL ELECTION

F - 1. Next Federal Election

BE IT RESOLVED that in the next federal election, the Congress of Union Retirees of Canada approach all parties nationally and candidates locally to support a national Pharmacare program, improved CPP/QPP, OAS, GIS, and quality homecare; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Congress of Union Retirees of Canada use their answers to inform retirees of which candidates and parties will actually tackle the above issues in a positive way.

F - 2. International Day of Older Persons – October 1st

BE IT RESOLVED that the CURC will attempt to engage other senior organizations to mobilize to make International Day of Older Persons, an annual day of protest to cutbacks that affect our seniors and all Canadians in communities across the country.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that October 1, 2015 be designated as a special day of national protest to influence the outcome of the scheduled federal election later in the month.

F - 3. Upcoming Federal Elections

BE IT RESOLVED that CURC, federations of retirees and others establish a communication mechanism to get more retirees across Canada to join together and discuss issues affecting them, and influence voting in the upcoming federal elections.

G. CURC

G - 1. Affiliation Fees

BE IT RESOLVED that all affiliations now be extended to December 31 of the last year in which they were paid; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any new affiliations will also end on December 31 of the current year if they are paid before July 1 and on December 31 of the following year if paid after July 1.

H. ENERGY

H - 1. Fracking

BE IT RESOLVED that the Canadian and provincial and territorial governments ban the practice of fracking.

H - 2. Modern Industrial and Environmental Strategy

BE IT RESOLVED that the Congress of Union Retirees of Canada will advocate for a modern industrial and environmental strategy based on the following eight pillars:

1. Managing our natural resources to minimize the environmental impact and to create good value-added jobs in processing those resources in Canada.
2. Clear rules for foreign take-overs that provide real protection for Canadians.
3. Fair trade deals that include strong environmental, labour, and social standards.
4. Improving innovation through a balanced approach to research and development that recognizes the essential role of public institutions and the need for green technologies.
5. Support for entrepreneurs having problems accessing venture capital by addressing problems with the financial sector, as well as public loans and subsidies.
6. Expanding and improving apprenticeship and skills training in Canada.
7. Recognizing the coordinating and enabling role of government in a modern economy.
8. That CURC support First Nations Treaty and Land Claims in order to provide them the opportunity to develop their own economies based on developing the resources in their lands and territories.

H – 3 Industrial Strategy

BE IT RESOLVED that CURC call upon the Canadian government and opposition parties to build a pan-Canadian industrial strategy based on low to no carbon energy technology.

J. POSTAL SERVICES/CBC/BUDGET

J - 1. Bill C-60

BE IT RESOLVED that CURC oppose the Ontario Chamber of Commerce and the Certified General Accountants of Ontario's Position urging the provincial government to look at contracting out more

government services to the private sector and to communicate this position to the Ontario Premier and leaders of the opposition parties; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Congress of Union Retirees of Canada oppose the Federal Government through Bill C-60 (Budget Implementation Act) taking an unprecedented, anti-democratic control of collective bargaining at the CBC, Canada Post and Via Rail; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this position be communicated to the Federal Government and the leaders of the Federal Opposition parties.

J - 2. Protecting Public Postal Service

BE IT RESOLVED that the Congress of Union Retirees of Canada support efforts to maintain public postal counters in our communities and publicly advocate for the universal public postal service; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Congress of Union Retirees of Canada work with the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) and other allies to support efforts to maintain and expand universal public postal service.

K. DEMOCRATIC REFORM

K - 1. Threat to Canadian Citizens Privacy

BE IT RESOLVED that CURC opposes any invasion of an individual's privacy rights as a result of Communications Security Establishment Canada [CSEC] surveillance activities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CURC demand from the federal government the following:

- ✧ That the CSEC data and other collected surveillance information be subjected to a review on a regular basis by an oversight All Party Parliamentary Legislative Committee to ensure that Canadian privacy rights are not being infringed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CURC demand that federal ministerial directives and secretive spy programs be subject to regular review by an oversight All Party Parliamentary Legislative Committee to ensure that Canadian privacy rights are protected.

K - 2. Abolish the Senate

BE IT RESOLVED that CURC reaffirms its position that the Canadian Senate be abolished.

L. HOUSING

L - 1. Low-Income & Affordable Housing

BE IT RESOLVED that: the Congress of Union Retirees of Canada (CURC) lobby the federal government to create more low-income and affordable housing units across Canada; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CURC work with provincial senior/retiree organizations to lobby provincial governments to increase and support low-income and affordable housing units; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CURC work with provincial senior/retiree organizations to lobby provincial governments to establish rent controls where currently there are none in place.

M. ABORIGINAL

M - 1. National Inquiry into Missing or Murdered Aboriginal Women

BE IT RESOLVED that CURC add its voice in support of those organizations calling on the Harper government to set up a National Inquiry and take National action into missing and murdered Aboriginal Women.

M - 2. Idle No More

BE IT RESOLVED that the Congress of Union Retirees of Canada (CURC) declare its support for “Idle No More” and send a letter of support to the “Idle No More” organizers.

N. TAXES

N - 2. Tax Fairness

BE IT RESOLVED that the CURC will shift the conversation about taxes by developing tools which:

- ✦ Promote the role that a fair and progressive tax system plays in building an equitable, prosperous and sustainable country; and
- ✦ Connect taxes to the public services and infrastructure that improve everyone's quality of life and help businesses succeed; and
- ✦ Emphasize there is no evidence that tax cuts for corporations or wealthy individuals create economic growth or jobs; and
- ✦ Work with like-minded groups to call for the establishment of a Royal Commission to review Canada's tax system and advocate for the following five-point plan:
 - ✦ Improve the progressivity of the personal income tax system.
 - ✦ Ensure profitable corporations pay their fair share.
 - ✦ Close loopholes – especially capital gains, stock options and inheritances.
 - ✦ Tackle tax evasion – especially offshore tax havens.
 - ✦ Implement a Robin Hood Tax on financial transactions.

O. International

O - 1. United Nations Drought Convention

BE IT RESOLVED that we call upon the federal government to reinstate Canada's commitment to the U.N.'s Convention on drought.

P. GUN CONTROL

P - 1. Gun Control Legislation

BE IT RESOLVED that we call upon the federal government to stop pandering to gun lobbies and introduce legislation to:

- ✦ restrict assault weapons and other firearms which are not exclusively designed for hunting or recreational target shooting;
- ✦ reintroduce restrictions on gun show regulation;
- ✦ force gun manufacturers to put new markings on weapons imported to Canada; and
- ✦ bring Canada into compliance with the United Nation effort to control international gun smuggling.

Q. OTHER

Q - 1. Public Defenders

BE IT RESOLVED that the Congress of Union Retirees of Canada (CURC) lobby the federal government to fund and provide the justice and public court system with a supply of public defenders (equal to public prosecution) at token charge to defendants, with an option to waive the public defenders in favour of their own lawyer should they so choose.

Q - 2. Fairness Test for Governments' Budgets

BE IT RESOLVED that the Congress of Union Retirees of Canada will:

- ✦ Work with affiliates and members as well as other allies to demand governments to submit budget decisions to a fairness test to prove that their budget decisions will not further increase inequality.

Q - 3. Cross-Border Shopping

BE IT RESOLVED that the CURC oppose the increase in tax exemptions for cross-border shoppers and send a letter to the Finance Minister Flaherty, advising him at this time of store closings, layoffs and stores moving to the US, that this increase is totally irresponsible and will lead to further unemployment in Canada.

Q - 4. Horse Racing in Ontario

BE IT RESOLVED that CURC demand the Ontario government reintroduce the Racetrack Revenue Sharing Agreement including an expansion of the slot machine component.

Q - 5. Hospital Parking Costs

BE IT RESOLVED that CURC call on the all governments to implement a more humane hospital parking charge system that provides fairness to its users.

Q - 6. Minimum Wage

BE IT RESOLVED that the CURC call upon the provincial and territorial governments and opposition parties to immediately increase minimum wage to a living wage for 2013 and annually provide increases to keep up with inflation.

Q - 7. Ostomy and Travel with Dignity and Security

BE IT RESOLVED that all security personnel be properly educated and trained about ostomies and instructed to take people to a private area when viewing the naked ostomy, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that sensitivity training be compulsory for all people dealing with the public.

Q - 8. Public Education

BE IT RESOLVED that the CURC call on all Provincial and territorial governments in Canada, through their Ministers of Education, to extend funding beyond secondary schools and their respective public school systems, to the college and university levels up to at least the first undergraduate degree.

Q9. Skills Strategy

BE IT RESOLVED that the CURC call upon the Federal government to implement a national skills development strategy in co-operation with provinces, cities and municipalities to respond to a growing skills gap, an ageing workforce, and the specific needs of groups such as Aboriginals, recent immigrants and youth.

Q - 10. Payday Loans

BE IT RESOLVED that CURC oppose the emergence of this type of business and take steps to inform the retired members of the dangers associated with the Payday loan/cash advance system.

Emergency Resolution - CETA

BE IT RESOLVED that the Congress of Union Retirees of Canada (CURC) work with the federations of labour and the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) and social partners to press the federal, provincial and territorial governments for a full and complete legislative and public review of the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) before the agreement is ratified and signed.