

HRSDC Motion to begin mobilizing against the forthcoming attack on the public service by the Harper Government

Whereas

(1) The financial crisis that began in 2008 created a need for employers and governments to scapegoat workers for problems they did not create (e.g., the loss of trillions of dollars of capital, and the development of government deficits to save the financial system) and pay for the crisis with reduced wages and diminished pensions and union rights;

(2) and whereas Canadian governments at all levels have joined employers to launch unprecedented attacks against unionized workers by force open existing contracts (e.g. to reduce wages, benefits and pensions of CAW autoworkers) and by making concessionary demands of public servants (e.g., municipal workers who were forced to strike in Windsor and Toronto this year);

(3) and whereas the Harper government already initiated its attack on federal public servants during recent contract negotiations with legislation (i.e., the Expenditure Restraint Act) that breaks collective agreements, imposes rates of pay, overrides previously negotiated wage increases and diminishes workers' right to freedom of association and collective bargaining;

(4) and whereas the Harper government has launched an unprecedented assault on the independence and non-partisan character of the federal public service with its attacks on (Linda Keen, former president of the Canadian Nuclear safety Commission, Parliamentary Budget Officer Kevin Page, Diplomat Richard Colvin, etc.) in its efforts to diminish the capacity of the public service to speak truth to power, and make us submissive scapegoats for its policy failures (e.g. in Afghanistan);

(5) and whereas the Harper government has prorogued parliament to evade parliamentary accountability (e.g., the committee investigating torture in Afghanistan), openly defied parliament in refusing to produce documents, continued to amass unparalleled executive power and diminished possibility for dissenting voices to act as 'checks and balances' to their power (e.g., parliamentary committees, a neutral public service, etc.);

(5) and whereas the Harper government has signalled its intention to initiate a new round of attacks against the federal Public Service (especially pensions) with the upcoming March 2010 budget,

Be it therefore resolved that

- (i) The CAPE NEC begin immediate preparations to defend the wages, pensions and union rights of CAPE members and all federal public servants, and
- (ii) The CAPE NEC call a special pre-budget meeting of all CAPE local leaders and activists to discuss the current situation, prepare a tentative plan of action, and form a new committee of CAPE members (the Mobilization Committee) to begin informing and mobilizing the members, and
- (iii) The CAPE NEC schedule a special meeting of all CAPE members to take place no later than 5 working days after release of a federal budget that includes new attacks on the federal public service, to discuss a proposed plan of action and expand the membership of CAPE's Mobilization Committee, and
- (iv) The CAPE NEC issue an immediate public statement calling on other federal public service unions (i.e. PSAC and PIPSC) to join CAPE in solidarity against the forthcoming attacks by creating a common front to develop a single plan of action in defence of union rights, existing wages and benefits (e.g., pensions), and in defence of democracy.

NEC Motion from HRSDC on pensions

Motion: It was moved by C. Lakaski, seconded by S. Chatterton, that the NEC accept the motion on pensions submitted by HRSDC Local in its entirety as received on January 27, 2010.

R. Zwicker proposed a friendly amendment.

That the NEC accepts HRSDC's motion in principle and allow the President, the Mobilization Committee and CAPE staff to work out the specifics.

Friendly amendment was accepted by the mover and the seconder.

Main motion as amended: It was moved by C. Lakaski, seconded by S. Chatterton, that the NEC accept HRSDC's motion in principle and allow the President, the Mobilization Committee and CAPE staff to work out the specifics.
Carried unanimously.