



THE CONFEDERATION OF CANADIAN UNIONS

Presidents Report to CCU Executive Board June 2014

I would like to thank all of you for taking the time from what I know are your very busy schedules to attend this executive board meeting. Also, thank you for your activism and your tireless defense of the rights of workers, through both your support of the CCU and the work that you all do for your own unions. Welcome to Toronto, or as I like to call it, the city that booted Hudak out on his right to work rear end.

A special welcome to PPWC locals 2 and 8 who, along with PPWC local 9, have affiliated with the CCU since our last meeting in March of this year. I look forward to working with all of our new affiliates to build on the success that the CCU and the union movement in this country have experienced recently. I look forward to working in solidarity with all of you to push forward an agenda of workers' rights and social justice. I look forward to working with all of you to continue to grow a strong and vibrant independent trade union movement in Canada.





Events



In March I attended the annual convention of the Pulp Paper and woodworkers of Canada and put on the conventions labour school dealing with internal organizing and membership engagement. The Convention adopted resolutions condemning Bill C-525 and right to work legislation. These topics were covered in the labour school so it was great that we were all on the same page and that the material in the labour school was on track and relevant to the PPWC and its Locals. The focus of the convention was sustainable jobs in value added industry, as opposed to a flawed policy of exporting resources at all costs with no regard for the environmental consequences. To say that PPWC local 2 were excellent hosts of convention would be an understatement, they will be a tough act to follow. Thanks to all of the PPWC for the invite, the hospitality, and their support of the CCU.



In May I attended the Third global Congress of the International Trade Union Confederation. Sharan Burrow was re-elected as the Confederations General Secretary. The Congress focused on the huge challenges facing the global union movement and strategies and goals for organizing as well as the defense of workers' rights on a global scale. The theme of the conference was building workers rights. Action plans were adopted to fight for, union growth, realizing workers rights, and sustainable jobs. It was amazing and educational to participate in workshops with workers from all over the world. The Congress passed an emergency resolution condemning the recent mine disaster in turkey and calling for those responsible to be held accountable.



Also in May I attended Labourstart's annual Global Solidarity Conference. The theme of the conference was "global crisis, global solidarity". Laboursart is the union movement's premier online news and campaigning network. The conference focused on ways to use global solidarity to combat, attacks on the rights of workers, rising global income inequality, and the advance of the neo liberal agenda. At the conference I attended workshops with trade unionists from all over the globe on such topics as, Building union power on a national level, The government persecution of the Turkish trade union movement, migrant workers, and techniques to force multi-national corporations to respect workers rights in particular the right to a safe workplace and the right to unionize. I also participated in the correspondents meeting directly following the conference in order to discuss and provide input on the direction the labourstart network will take in the coming months.



In late May I attended the Convention of the Construction Maintenance and Allied Workers. It was inspirational to learn about the history of CMAW and their struggle to break away from the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, and later from the Communication Energy and Paper workers union of Canada; a union since which, by the way, CMAW has outlived. It was also a pleasure to watch the debate and more importantly the democratic voting that continues to shape the Constitution and set the direction of this proud independent organization. I addressed the convention with a short presentation on the CCU. I was a bit nervous but was told that I said all the right things. I'll take that, as it is much better than being supremely confident while saying all the wrong things. Thanks to CMAW for their hospitality and their support of the CCU.



Organizing

It has been a banner year for the CCU in organizing. This is a direct result of the revitalization process that the Executive Board embarked on four years and some months ago. As a result of this revitalization effort we have grown during this period from 6 affiliates to 11 affiliates and significantly more than doubled the size of our organization. We have significantly increased our relevance as a labour central on both the national and international level.

Our growth in less than five years



PPWC Local 15 over 200 members



CMAW 7000 members



PPWC local 2 431 members



PPWC local 8 more than 400 members



PPWC local 9 650 members

You will be asked to approve an organizing leaflet, strategize on organizing targets and support a particular organizing opportunity at this Executive Board meeting. Success in organizing is a team effort and a credit to everyone here, give your neighbor a pat on the back. Keep up the fantastic work.

Political Action

For the last year the CCU along with the rest of the Canadian Labour movement has participated in the together fairness works campaign to organize and educate our members and the Canadian public on the benefits of unions and the dangers of the conservative anti-union, anti-worker agenda. Let's take look back at some of our positions and the political outcomes that actually resulted in the situations.



The CCU took a stand against the Hudak Conservatives and proposed RTW legislation in Ontario through articles in the press, social media, our raise your voice cast your vote Ontario votes campaign, and through educating our members.

The result: Right to work legislation is off the table in Ontario, The Ontario conservatives lost 10 seats, and Tim Hudak resigned as party leader.



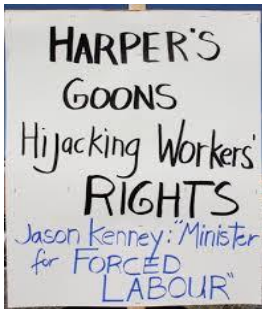
The CCU took a stand against Bill C-377 through, articles in the media, social media, lobbying government, and educating our members.

The result: The senate effectively killed the bill through amendments and it is off the table and dead on the order paper.



The CCU took a stand against Bill C-525 through articles in the media, social media, lobbying government, and educating our members.

The result: The Bill was amended to remove the parts that were undemocratic and supported union busting.



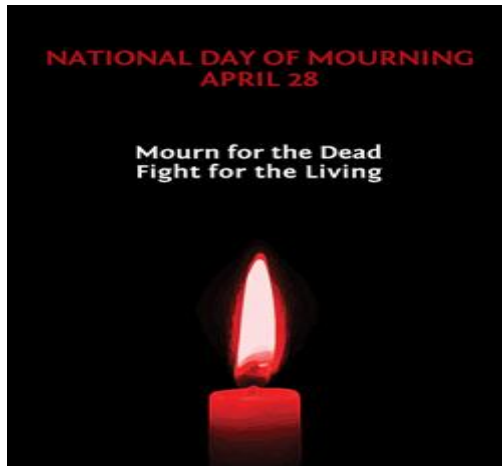
The CCU took a stand against the temporary foreign worker program through, articles in the media, social media, lobbying government and educating our members.

The result: The program was suspended in the fast food sector and abuses of migrant workers and youth unemployment are issues with the Canadian public more than ever before.



The CCU took a stand for retirement security for Canadians through articles in the media, social media, educating our members, and lobbying government.

The result: Made into an election issue, Ontario going forward with a plan, other provinces looking to participate



The CCU called for more inspectors and increased prosecution of employers for violation of health and safety laws.

The result: Nova Scotia has hired a special prosecutor to work on workplace safety investigations. The province has promised to hire 17 additional staff to its safety division.

Together we have grown and revitalized the CCU. Together we have become an effective voice for positive change in workers' rights on a national and international level. I look forward to continuing to work with all of you to make the CCU a force in advocating for independent unions, workers rights an social justice.

In Solidarity

John Hanrahan



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