



Labour Council Strategic Plan 2011

Introduction

The labour movement is facing enormous challenges. Globalization is restructuring entire industries, eliminating countless good jobs in the process. Neoliberal governments are signing free trade deals, squeezing social services and privatizing public assets.

The right has gained ground politically and is increasingly ambitious in its goals and aggressive in its tactics. On the collective bargaining front, employers are demanding major concessions - using lockouts to reverse the gains of generations of workers.

Workers who once believed that they had a secure future are either suffering severe setbacks or see them looming. The combined impacts of unemployment, precarious employment and declining rates of unionization leave large sections of the workforce in poverty – especially in racialized communities.

Corporations are extending their power and privilege through a relentless drive to privatize public services, grab public assets and undermine democratic public institutions.

Creating a sustainable economy, which can stop environmental degradation while providing decent jobs, remains one of the most formidable tasks of our era.

Despite the relentless attacks, working people are fighting back everywhere. The Labour Council's challenge is to build the organized power of working people –to meet these challenges, and win.

The Labour Council is committed to winning a better life for all working people – both unionized and unorganized. With its affiliates and allies, the Labour Council will:

- Defend and improve the hard-won rights and benefits in members' collective agreements.
- Defend and improve legislation governing union rights, health and safety, minimum wages, employment standards, human rights and democratic rights.
- Defend public assets.
- Defend and improve public services.
- Advance labour's equity goals.
- Organize for a sustainable economy that provides good green jobs.

Strategic priorities of the Labour Council

With its affiliates and allies, the Labour Council will:

- **Rebuild the organized political power of working people “on the ground”** in our communities, with union members as a key labour link to the communities in which they live.
- **Strengthen the organizations of working people** during this period of resistance. Overcome isolation and division among affiliated unions. Organize unrepresented workers. Build a new, diverse generation of working class leaders. Engage the power of retirees.
- **Provide strategic leadership** to campaigns that defend equity, human rights, public assets, public services and democratic public institutions. Defeat lockouts and win strikes by mounting campaigns that have the power to win.
- **Turn the political tide.** Improve the political program of labour and find new ways to frame it so that it can win the support of working people – especially youth. Elect to all levels of government, representatives who will defend the interests of working people.
- **Improve the Labour Council’s internal operation - to support the achievement of its goals.** Ensure that the activities of the Labour Council are guided by a comprehensive strategic plan. Build a diverse, collective leadership group. Improve the format of Labour Council delegates’ meetings and Executive Board meetings. Strengthen the role of Labour Council Projects in support of the work of the Labour Council. Introduce new technologies to improve the operation of the Labour Council and its ability to communicate and organize.