

FACT SHEET #9: HOW TO GET THERE (5): JUST TRANSITION

A sustainable economy creates jobs - thousands of them. For instance, one reliable forecast of the impact of measures to combat global warming predicts a net gain of 1.5 million jobs over 15 years, but this is comprised of two million jobs gained and *half a million lost*.

The transition to a sustainable economy has already cost Canadian jobs. The CLC, along with the wider environmental movement, supports the banning of highly toxic chemicals (Fact sheet #8). Yet when tetraethyl lead was banned on grounds of environmental health, over 2,000 Canadian workers lost their jobs. A decade after the ban, 36% of the production workforce were still unemployed; 8% held only part-time jobs; 23% had lower paying jobs and only 25% held jobs of equal or higher salaries.

The need for *Just Transition* for Workers During Environmental Change is clear. The key point about Just Transition is *continuity of income* and *alternative employment*, with the same or a different employer.

Just Transition is:

- *Fairness*
Just Transition is the fair treatment of workers and their communities when employers close or run down their facilities, for whatever reason
- *Re-employment or alternative employment*
The prime aim of Just Transition is the continuation of employment without loss of pay, benefits or seniority
- *Compensation*
Where continuation of employment is not possible, just compensation is the next alternative.
- *Sustainable Production*
Just Transition is essential to the move to more sustainable production methods and the service sector which supports it.