

“G20 COMES TO TORONTO”

Thursday, February 4, 2010

2010 will be a decisive year for Canada, and for the world. The deadline for meeting the world's Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is only five years away. Our decisions on economic reform and climate change will determine the success of world's efforts to reduce poverty and reverse dangerous global warming for the next generation and beyond.

As host of the next G8 and G20 Summits, Canada can make the difference between relegating these aspirations to a distant hope in an uncertain future and confirming the possibility of achieving these goals in our lifetime. The consequences of renegeing on our promises are unthinkable for the millions around the world looking towards a new model of globalization that is socially responsible, economically sustainable and environmentally just.

In 2009, a broad and diverse group of Canadian civil society organizations, including labour, came together to develop a common blueprint for action.

While the organizations come from a vast array of backgrounds with diverse focus and expertise, there is clear consensus on specific recommendations to move forward on an agenda for global development.

It focuses on three interlinked priorities: combating poverty; transforming the global economic and financial system; and making real progress on climate change.

Highlights include clear recommendations on what Canada can do to:

1. Prevent the deaths of millions of women and children
2. Confirm the G8's legacy on HIV and AIDS
3. Build greater coherence on global food security
4. Make important progress on Education for All.
5. Assert water and sanitation as the foundation to good health
6. Ensure economic recovery includes decent work for all
7. Solidify and reinforce progress in Africa
8. Ensure global economic recovery for all
9. Make global rules and institutions fair
10. Provide political momentum towards a fair, ambitious and binding global climate agreement in 2010

These will be the main themes of a people's summit to be held one week before the G20 arrives in Toronto. But the arrival of the leaders of the world's twenty most powerful economies begs the question of a popular response to the world economic recession and financial meltdown. There will be a major demonstration demanding action on the crisis of jobs and social justice while the world leaders attend the G20 Summit itself.

The Executive Board recommends that Labour Council:

1. and affiliates work with the CLC to hold a successful labour educational forum in mid-June 2010, prior to the G20 summit.
2. work with the CLC, OFL, national and international union bodies and grass-roots organizations to mobilize for a major demonstration on Saturday, June 26th.