

Labour Day 2010 FIGHT FOR THE DIGNITY OF THE WORKING CLASS AND ITS DECISIVE ROLE IN MODERN NATION-BUILDING

- Workers' Centre, Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist) -



The Workers' Centre of CPC(M-L) sends its militant greetings to all workers participating in Labour Day marches, rallies and banquets. Labour Day 2010 marks a new beginning for many workers engaged in battles to defend their rights. Owners of capital, their monopolies, their state and political institutions have launched an anti-worker campaign to drive down the Canadian standard of living through concessions, wrecking of manufacturing, destruction of social programs and the public service, and interference in the collective affairs of the working class to undermine the independence of the trade union movement and render it impotent. Within this situation, many workers are finding their way forward by settling scores with the old way of thinking and through building new forms of resistance at the workplace and in the community.

Fighting for Dignity at Work

Dignity at work comes from acts of conscious participation with fellow workers in a collective struggle to demand an effective say in all affairs that affect the well-being of workers at the workplace. This includes wages, benefits, pensions, working conditions, and health and safety. This requires individual responsibility to participate in arriving at the decisions of the local collective of workers and a determination to carry out those decisions to defend the rights of all in the spirit of one for all and all for one.

Collective trade union work at the modern workplace demands new forms, methods and actions with analysis that mobilize workers to participate actively in both deciding the affairs of their local union and in carrying out those decisions in practice.

Trade union activity requires the active participation

of local members in gathering information pertinent to their struggles, in preparing the views of their collective regarding their activities, and disseminating those views to all concerned and to the wider community.

To enhance their ability to defend themselves and develop effective tactics, workers at their workplaces should engage in research, investigation, study and analysis of the concrete conditions facing their collectives and industry to broaden their theoretical understanding of Canada's political economy including their own sector and how it relates to other sectors within the overall socialized economy. The Canadian socialized economy is their economy and they must prepare themselves to make it so in practice.

Workers find dignity at the workplace through uniting and finding ways and means to develop collectively their thinking, tactics and new forms of organization to defend themselves in the battle with owners of capital.

Fighting for Working Class Dignity in Society

Working class dignity in society is found today in being political. Being political means engaging in class struggle consciously to defend the rights of the working class and Canada's *right to be* in the face of monopoly right and annexation by U.S. imperialism. Being political means individuals taking up their social responsibility to decide the economic and political affairs of the nation, to organize collectively as a powerful political force, a Workers' Opposition that makes concrete proposals and organizes actions with analysis to solve the economic crisis and put an end to the disastrous business cycle.

Being political means building a national Workers' Opposition capable of forcing governments to stop paying the rich and increase funding for social programs. It means taking up the

task of fashioning an anti-war, anti-fascist government that takes up its social responsibilities to defend the people and public good from the marauding monopolies and U.S. imperialists that are spiralling out of control into open fascism.

Being political means fighting to restrict monopoly right and uphold public right on all matters concerning Canada's social and natural environments, to stop the descent into state-organized fascism, and to create the subjective and objective conditions for a modern state and democratic political system that serves the working class and public good, and moves society forward to a new stage of socialized humanity. Workers find dignity in society by serving its general interests in opposition to the narrow interests of the owners of monopoly capital.

Fighting for Working Class Dignity in Thinking

Working class dignity in thinking develops from settling scores with the existing obsolete thinking. Owners of capital through their control of economic and political affairs, the state and its institutions such as parliament, the education system and mass media impose their thinking and outlook on the working class. This capital-centred thinking is accepted as normal within society such as the casually held notion of labour as a cost of production. These anti-worker notions distort the political economy of Canada, weaken the working class movement and cause confusion in its ranks. Rejecting this old thinking imposed by the owners of capital demands conscious participation in acts of finding out while participating in class struggle to defend the rights of the working class and rights of all.

Workers are not a cost of production; they are the actual producers of all wealth. Their work to transform the bounty of Mother Earth into use-value creates social product which is distributed throughout society giving the people a means of subsistence that sustains human life.

Workers claim a portion of the added-value they produce as wages, benefits and pensions while another claim is made by governments for their state machine and another claim is made by owners of capital as profit of enterprise, interest and rent. Workers, as the actual producers in modern society have first claim on social product. Governments have second claim to meet their social responsibilities to protect the people and the general interests of society while the claims of owners of capital come last.

Rejecting such anti-worker notions as the "cost of labour" gives rise to dignity in thinking and provides confidence to the working class in its struggle to defend its rights and the rights of all, and to engage and lead workers and their allies forward to their own nation-building project based on a thinking, outlook, aim and program that workers themselves discover and declare their own.

On the occasion of Labour Day 2010, let all workers affirm their determination to fight for dignity at the workplace, in society and politics, and to have their own thinking and play a decisive role in modern nation-building.

Long live the Canadian working class and its dignity at work, in society and politics, and in its own thinking gained through battles to defend its rights and the rights of all, and from playing its leading role in modern nation-building!

For more information: workerscentre@cpcml.ca



SEPTEMBER ISSUE OF WORKERS' FORUM OFF THE PRESS!

The September 2010 issue "Manufacturing Yes! Nation-Wrecking No!" is off the press. This issue reports on the steel industry, auto and mining industries in Ontario and varied struggles in BC, Alberta and Quebec. It includes a special feature on the Nation Building Conference held in Hamilton on May 2, 2010.

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