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**Labour Day 2023**

## **Speaking In One's Own Name Is the Starting Point to Establishing a Way Forward**

*– Workers' Centre of CPC(M-L) –*



On Labour Day 2023 the Workers' Centre of the Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist) sends its greetings to working people across the country who are using this occasion to hold marches, picnics, meetings and other events which honour the decisive role of workers and of unions today and give voice to their claims on society at this time.

While Labour Day was established by the ruling class in the U.S. and Canada to try to deprive the workers of their revolutionary May First traditions, today Labour Day has become an important occasion for working people to gather together and speak in their own name about their conditions and demands for an economy that serves the people, not the rich. This itself shows that try as they might the rulers cannot silence the voice of the working class. The fights workers have waged over the past year hold high the dignity of labour. They make their mark in many important ways which will, the stronger the voice of the workers becomes, eventually turn things around in a manner which humanizes the natural and social environment and in this way favour the interests of the working people.

At this time, the bourgeoisie is attacking society with a vengeance, targeting in particular the forward-looking view that society should provide for the well-being of all its members. The bourgeoisie is not merely defending the status quo and refusing to move forward. It is not merely refusing to extend the provision of public health care and education and other needs such as daycare, old-age security and housing. It has destroyed the very conception of justice, fairness and the good of all. It denies that governments have a social responsibility to do their duty towards members of the polity.



By passing legislation based on the medieval view that every individual should fend for themselves, even the limited conception of social responsibility that had become the norm in Canada in the post-war arrangements has been trampled underfoot. This is amply illustrated by the lack of responsibility for the prevention of and control over natural disasters. It is seen too in the disasters which result from the profoundly anti-social measures which permit narrow private interests to regulate health and safety matters related to highways, railways, mines, and industrial and agricultural concerns and in terms of all aspects of life.

These developments which are taking place reflect the deep crisis of state monopoly capitalism. This is a crisis in which the capitalists and the state as the private treasurer of the capitalist class as a whole cannot generate the levels of revenue that are required to service the insatiable demands of the oligopolies for investments and for the specific types of infrastructure they require at this time. This is why the ruling circles do not adequately fund those areas of spending which are related to the health, education and social welfare of the people.

In the same way, no matter how much richer the rich become as a result of governments' pay-the-rich schemes, the workers are submitted to intensified exploitation and union-busting in the name of "prosperity," "national security" and "peace." Meanwhile, the policies of cartel parties of the establishment are inseparable from the aim of preserving a constitutional order and institutions which no longer function. Whether they call themselves "Conservative," "Liberal," "Social-Democrat," or by another name, the objective developments compel the cartel parties to become open spokespersons and agents for social retrogression and state attacks against the people in the name of national security and war.



The allocation of billions of dollars of public funds for schemes which further integrate Canada's economy into the U.S. war economy ensures that the people are deprived of the benefits of new developments in science and technology. Only the working class has an interest in harnessing the technological advances to serve a human-centred society. The use of police powers to force people to submit to the dictate of the rich or be targeted as a threat to the economy and national security is another matter of concern which must be tackled by the working people by speaking out in defence of the rights of all.

The need for publicly funded social programs to provide for the people's needs is objective. To be human in the 21st century means concretely providing those programs that ensure good health, education for the youth, security in retirement and a bright future for the youth, to meet the needs that belong to us by virtue of being human. In the same way, the claims of the working people for the conditions they require to do their work cannot be readily dismissed because they are just; they uphold the dignity of labour and they protect the rights of all. It is the workers, not the rich, who are essential. It is their work that produces all the value and provides all the services that permit society to not only function but reproduce itself. This in turn means they have a right and a duty to decide what society needs and how its payment can be met, what investments are needed and how they can be paid for.

Around the world the workers are asserting that their voice must be heard, recognized and respected as only they have an interest in providing the pressing economic and social problems with solutions.

On the occasion of Labour Day 2023 one of the greatest challenges the workers face is to establish mechanisms for discussion and deliberation amongst their peers so that they can share their experiences as they organize to address their conditions. The situation today is such that the workers cannot afford to simply adopt pre-established positions fed to them by others, but must work out their own positions and provide themselves with their own information which can reveal what must be done next.

This is a constant and ongoing process in which the workers inform and empower themselves to decide the matters that affect their lives and reject sideline commentators, critics and apologists for the status quo. Speaking in their own name and refusing to authorize others who are not their peers and who do not share weal and woe with them to speak for them provides the workers with confidence. The more they take up the role of educating the educators, the more educated they will become in what is needed to turn things around.

This Labour Day let our demands on society ring out loud and clear. Speak out and take action in defence of the rights of all, demand that governments stop paying the rich, increase investments in social programs and make Canada a zone for peace! Let's make sure that as working people we take measures to represent ourselves and deprive the cartel parties of any platform to claim a mandate to pay the rich, privatize, sell out our resources, carry out racist attacks against Indigenous Peoples and minorities including the current sinophobia, perpetuate violence against women and children and the most vulnerable as part of making the working people disposable or engage in warmongering, the further militarization of culture and the integration of the economy into the U.S. war machine.

The Workers' Centre of CPC(M-L) will continue to be at the disposal of this work as workers come forward to speak for themselves. Let us make the coming year one in which the workers can proudly say that they speak in their own name!



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