



**COMMUNICATIONS, ENERGY AND PAPERWORKERS UNION OF CANADA  
SYNDICAT CANADIEN DES COMMUNICATIONS, DE L'ÉNERGIE ET DU PAPIER**

**DAVE COLES**

President / président

Le 24 février 2011

To all members of the CEP National Executive Board

**Re: Global solidarity**

Greetings,

This is a crucial time for the global trade union movement. In the Middle East we have seen inspiring and historic revolutions with trade union members in the centre of the struggle. Through ICEM, UNI and other global trade union bodies we are doing everything we can to support the democratic revolutions and to ensure that workers will have free trade unions. I encourage all members of our Board to follow these developments by visiting the web pages of our global union federations [www.uniglobalunion.org](http://www.uniglobalunion.org) and [www.icem.org](http://www.icem.org).

Two weeks ago, global solidarity actions in 15 countries demanded labour rights in Mexico. This global action was organized as a direct result of the forum initiated by CEP last summer in Toronto at the time of the G20. In Canada, we participated in actions in Ottawa, Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver. Today, our ICEM comrade, Juan Linares, Secretary of the Los Mineros union, was released from jail in Mexico after two years of imprisonment. This is a great victory and we are celebrating with our sisters and brothers of Los Mineros. I want to recognize and thank all CEP officers, staff and members who participated in the Days of Action.

We are also following closely the events in Wisconsin and other Northern US states over labour rights. This struggle is not about budget deficits; it is about the right of workers to organize and bargain collectively in the United States. The stakes could not be higher, and the outcome will affect us greatly. Secretary Treasurer Menard is joining other Canadian trade union leaders in Madison, Wisconsin, at the centre of the struggle. Tonight, Gaetan will speak to the thousands of Wisconsin workers, teachers and students who are occupying the capital building in Madison. We will put information on [www.cep.ca](http://www.cep.ca) as soon as it is available.

These dramatic events remind us that our movement has always been internationalist and that solidarity has no borders. Our sisters and brothers in the Middle East, Mexico and the United States inspire us to be informed, organize and struggle for our common goals.

In solidarity,

Dave Coles  
President  
FW/nb

c.c. National Representatives

