**DAVE COLES**

President / president

September 10, 2008

To CEP Officers

Greetings,

The federal election campaign must be a first-line priority for our union until October 14. I want to bring you up-to-date on labour movement goals and strategies, CEP policy and strategies, as well as legal and organizational issues.

LABOUR'S GOALS

Labour's goals in this campaign have been spelled out clearly by the Canadian Labour Congress and the FTQ. Our vital interests depend upon stopping a Stephen Harper - Conservative majority.

In English Canada, labour will work to elect New Democrats in 46 priority ridings. In Québec, labour will support the Bloc Québécois against the Conservatives. If these strategic goals are met, Harper cannot achieve a majority.

Further, it may be possible to achieve a minority government with the NDP and the BQ holding a balance of power. This would be the best realistic outcome to advance a workers' agenda for Canada.

CEP GOALS AND STRATEGIES

CEP has identified 3 key issues for this campaign:

1. **The forest crisis and the loss of forestry and manufacturing jobs.** We want to force all parties to pledge support for the forest industry, policies to support manufacturing, and transition and assistance for workers and communities.
2. **Canadian energy security and the processing of our oil and natural gas in Canada.** We want a Canadian energy policy that ensures that our oil and gas resources are processed in Canada, and we favour planned, sustainable development of the tar sands.

3. **Foreign ownership of telecom and media.** We want to secure commitments that Canadian ownership of telecom and media will not be sold out by the next government.

CEP CAMPAIGN ACTIONS

1. CEP will fully support the CLC and FTQ labour campaigns in priority ridings. Brother Fred Wilson will be in touch with regional officers to discuss the specific assistance and support we can provide to these priority campaigns.
2. CEP will speak out on the issues. As CEP President, I will provide regular commentary on election issues that will be published on CEP.ca, and also on the web site Rabble.ca. I encourage officers and staff to also write and comment on election issues on CEP.ca by contacting Sister Michelle Walsh. Sister Walsh will be coordinating "Focus Election" on www.cep.ca where we will carry information about election issues, local campaigns and CEP members who may be candidates. If you know of CEP members or staff who are candidates, please forward that information to Sister Walsh ASAP.
3. Election flyers and information that can be downloaded and printed for members will also be available on CEP.ca. CEP will also be preparing a questionnaire on important issues to CEP members (see below) which will be published on CEP.ca and sent to local unions for distribution to members. We propose that local unions also circulate this questionnaire to their local candidates.
4. CEP has joined "Smart Vote" - a partnership of unions and NGOs convened by the Ottawa based Rideau Institute. This partnership will provide a number of services to CEP that will assist our participation in the election. These include:
 - Polling information on party support and issues
 - Tracking of announcements by all parties on our key issues
 - Election calendar of events and where party leaders will be campaigning
 - A contact list of reporters with the party campaigns and reporting on our issues
 - A questionnaire to the parties on our issues.

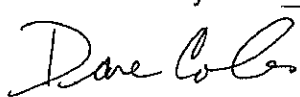
We will send updates and information on issues, events and useful contacts to our regional offices. Through Smart Vote we will also make strategic interventions on the issues that are debated, and we will send information and suggestions to regional offices in this regard.

LEGAL MATTERS

A FAQ sheet from the CLC on election spending rules under the Canada Elections Act will be sent to you shortly. If you have any questions, please contact Brother Wilson to discuss your concerns. In addition, CEP will register as a Third Party Organization which will allow CEP to advertise or take other actions as necessary during the campaign.

By the time CEP meets in convention, Canada will have a new government. CEP activists, staff and officers can make a real difference to the outcome on behalf of our members and working people. Please keep my office informed of all your activities.

In solidarity

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Coles". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line above the "s".

Dave Coles
President
DC/nb

Copies: CEP Rank and File Executive Board Members
CEP National Representatives

Encl.