

**400. GLOBALIZATION ACTION PLAN**  
**ORIGINATOR: NBoD**  
**LANGUAGE OF ORIGIN: E**

Introduction

*“The term ‘globalization’ captures a number of corporate and governmental activities that are designed to provide corporations with the right to operate internationally under common rules. By definition, these rules decrease the power of governments to enforce their own rules and laws, and lead to a loss of control over domestic resources and economic development.”*

*PSAC Globalization Discussion Paper—fall, 2001*

With every passing day, corporations exert greater influence over domestic economies. From Canada to Zambia, the ability of governments to act in the best social and economic interests of their people are frustrated by corporations and the agencies and institutions that have been created to regulate international trade, development and finance.

In Canada, the past two decades have been marked by severe cuts in public spending and services and countless privatization initiatives as well as wage freezes legislated by both the Mulroney and Chrétien governments. One of the most confrontational policies implemented during this period was the legislated wage freeze on federal public sector workers that was initiated by the Mulroney government in 1991. The legislated wage freeze, twice extended by the Chrétien government, was heavily influenced if not ordered by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The proposed privatization of the supply chain within the Department of National Defence although since abandoned, was no less a victim of globalization than is the privatization of water in developing countries from South America to the Horn of Africa.

From Canada to Turkey, Corporations are demanding the unencumbered right to deliver public services. And when they don't succeed, they demand and receive compensation under a string of trade agreements from the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) to the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT).

Drawing attention to the corporate agenda, confronting the World Bank, the IMF, the World Trade Organization and the other institutions of

globalization is essential if the economic, political, environmental and social condition of working people in Canada and around the world, including PSAC members, are to be protected and enhanced.

In short, in order to advance the interests of its members, the PSAC must fight to end corporate dominance at home and abroad, and, ensure that global trade, financial and other agreements are designed and implemented to benefit working people rather than corporate interests.

Fighting Globalization—the PSAC has made a difference.

From the North American Free Trade Agreement to the Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI) to the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas, the PSAC and PSAC members have been active and engaged.

Since the fall of 2000, the PSAC and our members in a number of locations have demonstrated against the General Agreement on Trade in Services, the Free Trade Area of the Americas and the organizations that champion them in Seattle, Québec City, Vancouver, Windsor, Calgary and Ottawa. With other unions and social sector groups we co-sponsored a cross-country Caravan designed to bring information on the impact of trade agreements and globalization to communities across the country.

In addition, the Alliance Executive Committee has made defending public services-globalization a political action priority for 2001-2003. Under this theme, the PSAC has supported the actions of our social partners, including the Common Front on the WTO and Common Frontiers. We've initiated research projects on the scope and influence of corporate power in health care and other public services, participated in the 2000 women's march which focused attention on the impact of globalization. We are also participating in the development of an international public education and mobilization project on the impact of corporate globalization and how to fight back.

Over the last year, and for the first time, the PSAC has engaged its members in a broad based debate on globalization and its impact on workers in Canada and elsewhere.

**Why, because our fight against corporate globalization protects and defends public services for all Canadians, including PSAC members.**

Fighting Globalization—the PSAC will continue to make a difference.

From May 2003 to May 2006 the PSAC will focus its globalization work on a comprehensive action plan designed to educate and engage our

members, protect trade unions and trade unionists around the world and confront the institutions of corporate globalization.

We, the delegates to the PSAC Thirteenth Triennial Convention (Montreal—April/May, 2003) endorse the following action plan and are committed to its implementation.

**International Solidarity:**

Since the creation of the first Solidarity/Humanities fund by a Canadian Union in 1985 (Steelworkers—In response to the 1984 Ethiopian famine Crisis in 1984), a significant number of Canadian private and public sector unions have recognized that a stand alone fund focused on:

- ? International development work;
- ? Canadian anti-poverty and development initiatives;
- ? Emergency relief work in Canada and around the world;
- ? Worker to Worker exchanges; and,
- ? Worker education in Canada and around the world.

can confront corporate globalization and make a real difference to the lives of workers in Canada and the developing world.

In January, 2003, the PSAC approved the establishment of a PSAC Social Justice Fund to add the force and resources of 151,000 workers to the pursuit of a fair world order and international development. The PSAC Social Justice Fund will be launched on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2003.

**Action Plan Recommendation # 1:**

**Over the next three years the PSAC is committed to providing sustaining funding at the rate of 1 cent per member per hour worked to the PSAC Social Justice Fund through collective bargaining.**

The PSAC will not sign any collective agreement over the next three years without a clause that financially supports the PSAC Social Justice Fund without the express written consent of the PSAC National President.

**Action Plan Recommendation # 2:**

**Over the next twelve months, the PSAC's Education program will develop a course on globalization and the third world. This course will be developed and taught with resources from the PSAC's Operating Budget with member participation financed out of the PSAC Social Justice Fund.**

## **Political Action**

Globalization will continue as a priority theme for the PSAC's political action work over the next three years with a focus on: supporting and strengthening coalition partners such as Common Frontiers and the Common Front on the World Trade Organization (CFWTO); participation in labour forums and demonstrations when the G8, the IMF, the World Bank and other organizations established to support globalization meet in Canada; making the connection between globalization and privatization during election campaigns, and supporting political parties that are opposed to corporate globalization and the exploitation of workers in Canada and around the world.

### **Action Plan Recommendation # 3:**

**Establish anti-globalization work as a priority for the PSAC political action program at the national and Regional level over the next three years.**

## **Internal PSAC Committees**

Operating within a defined mandate, internal PSAC Committees ranging from the Education Committee, to the Collective Bargaining Committee to the Equal Opportunities Committee to the Health and Safety Committee have focused their attention on domestic aspects of their specific issue area. There is an international perspective to each of these issues, and our internal committees should be mandated to address them.

### **Action Plan Recommendation # 4:**

- a) Broaden the terms of reference of appropriate PSAC internal committees to ensure that they consider international solidarity and the impact of corporate globalization on their issue area; and,
- b) Ensure that internal PSAC Committees bring an international solidarity and anti-globalization perspective to all membership conferences (including Regional and National Bargaining Conferences).

## **International Affiliation**

While Labour unions work in a specific sector, country or region, many of the issues (and employers) they confront are the same. As a result, labour centrals at the international level can and do play a significant role in the anti-globalization agenda. The PSAC is affiliated to the Public Services International and Union Network International (UNI).

**Action Plan Recommendation # 5**

That the PSAC work with the ICFTU (through the CLC) and directly with the PSI and UNI to confront corporate globalization and the international agencies that promote corporate controls of public resources.

**Communications**

PSAC members need to know the potential impacts of globalization and what their union is doing to address them. They also need to know who their union is supporting domestically and internationally and why, and the progress of any developmental projects undertaken by the PSAC in partnership with unions and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in other countries.

**Action Plan Recommendation # 6:**

**The PSAC's Communication section will provide regular updates on the Unions' international solidarity and anti-globalization work in PSAC publications and electronic media.**

**PSAC 2006 Fourteenth Triennial Convention**

This action plan is to be implemented by the PSAC over the 2003—2006 period. It represents a significant increase in the work undertaken by the PSAC and PSAC members in the area of international solidarity and globalization.

**Action Plan Recommendation # 7:**

**That the PSAC National Board of Directors provide a detailed report and recommendations on PSAC International Solidarity and anti-globalization activities to the 2006 PSAC Triennial Convention.**

**COMMITTEE  
RECOMMENDATION \_\_\_\_\_ DECISION \_\_\_\_\_**

**401. SOLIDARITY FUND**

**ORIGINATOR: PSAC 2002 UNITY CONFERENCE**

**LANGUAGE OF ORIGIN: E**

**WHEREAS** there are atrocities to people globally that are crimes against humanity; and

**WHEREAS** the Public Service Alliance of Canada members have no access to funds to support these members and their communities; and

**WHEREAS** most unions have funds that assist in responding to basics such as poverty, racism and discrimination:

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Public Service Alliance of Canada establish a solidarity fund based upon at least 2 cents per member per month.

**COMMITTEE**

**RECOMMENDATION** \_\_\_\_\_ **DECISION** \_\_\_\_\_

**402. MOBILIZATION AROUND GLOBALIZATION**

**ORIGINATOR: 2002 PSAC NATIONAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE**

**LANGUAGE OF ORIGIN: F**

**WHEREAS** globalization and privatization have and will have a direct impact on working conditions and upcoming collective bargaining;

**WHEREAS** the World Trade Organization (WTO) is a supra-governmental financial organization with the ability of placing constraints on our government (e.g. legal proceedings taken by UPS against Canada Post - UPS is prosecuting Canada Post for unfair competition);

**WHEREAS** the union must stand for worker's rights which are threatened by globalization:

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the PSAC work in solidarity with our labour and coalition partners to mobilize in the struggle against the negative impacts of globalization;

**BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED THAT** the PSAC play a role in opposing international negotiations on globalization, including those on the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA).

**COMMITTEE**  
**RECOMMENDATION** \_\_\_\_\_ **DECISION** \_\_\_\_\_

**403. INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY**

**ORIGINATOR: VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT AREA COUNCIL**

**LANGUAGE OF ORIGIN: E**

**WHEREAS** the attack on social justice and workers' rights has intensified in recent years, reaching global proportions; and

**WHEREAS** the ability of the PSAC to protect its members' jobs and quality of life is diminished by the international forces that are worldwide that seek to weaken and destabilize the union movement; and

**WHEREAS** it is clear that a disproportionate share of these attacks on workers' rights is borne by working sisters and children around the world; and

**WHEREAS** the PSAC is committed to seeking gender equality in Canada and around the world; and

**WHEREAS** the CAW, CEP, CSW, ILWU, UFCW, IWA have negotiated funding for international solidarity from the employer and the CUPW, CUPE, UNITE, BCGEU, BCTU, HSU, BC FED, NUPGE, and others are funding international solidarity programs by union dues:

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the PSAC commit to undertake International Solidarity work that promotes membership awareness of the need for international solidarity, and to plan and coordinate international solidarity actions and projects.

**COMMITTEE**  
**RECOMMENDATION** \_\_\_\_\_ **DECISION** \_\_\_\_\_