

Montreal, November 10, 2009

President Felipe de Jesús Calderón Hinojosa,

Last Friday, November 6, 2009, we met in Montreal , to follow up on the agreements we made with trade unions and social organizations from Mexico and the United States during the *Third North American Encounter of Organizations from the Energy Sector* held in Mexico City from the 16th to the 18th of March, 2009. We trade unions and social networks involved in energy in Quebec and Canada affirm the following with respect to recent events in Mexico:

1. We condemn the actions of your government on October 10th and 11th when you ordered the takeover by force through the intervention of federal police of the installations of the Central Light and Power Company (*Luz y Fuerza del Centro*), in order to later issue a decree announcing the liquidation of that company which is protected by the Constitution and without the necessary Congressional authorization.
2. We condemn your government's decree liquidating the collective agreement and the very existence of the Mexican Electrical Workers Union (Sindicato Mexicano de Electricistas (SME)) as well as the dismissal without due process nor previous approval by a judicial authority of more than 44,000 workers leaving them unemployed and putting at risk more than 15,000 pensioners.
3. We denounce how the unilateral action of your government creates the conditions for joining the installations and assets of Central Light and Power with those of the Federal Electricity Commission (Comisión Federal de Electricidad) in order to hand over the entire industry to the private sector.
4. We consider this sequence of events to be an attack against and an attempt to eliminate one of the most important democratic unions in Mexico as well as a transgression against workers' rights and the public sector.
5. We denounce how your government's action violate international rights recognized by Mexico with respect to the right to stable employment, the prohibition of arbitrary dismissal without cause, social security, human rights, and workers' dignity as recognized by the Interamerican Court of Human Rights. They also damage the rights to employment, trade union freedom and collective agreements enshrined in the International Labour Organization.

In the case of the conflict with the SME and its affiliates, but also in past cases involving the miners' union and others, we believe that the rule of law has clearly been infringed, aggravating the social discontent produced by the current economic crisis.

We call for the reestablishment of the rule of law and we demand that your government:

- Without any delay withdraw the liquidation decree and order the reopening of the public company Central Light and Power as well as the immediate withdrawal of the Federal Police and the army from its installations;
- Withdraw the personnel who are illegally working in the installations of Central Light and Power;
- Guarantee the return of the workers who are members of the SME to their work places respecting their collective agreement which we consider to continue to be legally binding;
- Fully respect the employment and labour rights of the employees of the company;
- Immediately and unconditionally recognize the legitimately elected executive of the Sindicato Mexicano de Electricistas (SME), and respect all aspects of the union's autonomy;
- Establish a space for social dialogue consistent with the Constitution and international practice in order to arrive at a negotiated solution to the conflict.

The North American trade union and social movements that have come together since August of 2007 to coordinate struggles with respect to the energy sector support access to energy as a fundamental human right of our peoples. Privatization is not the way to achieve this right. In each of our countries we are promoting policies in accordance with the environmental and climate change challenges our societies face. We affirm that the protection and promotion of trade union freedom and the rights of association and negotiation are indispensable for confronting the actual challenges in the energy sector.

It is in this spirit that we join the struggle of the SME and we support the Paro Cívico Nacional (National Civic Strike) planned for November 11, 2009 to counteract the destructive policies of your government.

Sincerely,

John Dillon	Common Frontiers Canada
Pierre-Yves Serinet	Quebec Network on Hemispheric Integration (RQIC)
Lucien Royer	Canadian Labour Congress (CLC), Director of International Department
Teresa Healy	CLC
Stan Marshall	Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), Managing Director
Richard Perreault	CUPE local 1500 - Hydro Québec / Right to Energy SOS-Future
Corina Crawley	CUPE
Normand Pépin	Central of Democratic Unions (CSD)
Marie-Dominik Langlois	Committee for Human Rights in Latin America (CDHAL)
Joseph Gargiso	Communications, Energy & Paperworkers Union of Canada (CEP), Administrative Vice-President, Québec
Fred Wilson	CEP, Assistant to the President
Jim Britton	CEP, Western Vice President
Glen Sonier	CEP, National Rep., Sarnia
Erwin Cronk	CEP, Atlantic Vice President
Daniel Cloutier	CEP, National Rep., Montreal

Sambann Honn	CEP, Local 121 (Shell)
Andy Ross	COPE, Local 378, President
Stuart Trew	Council of Canadians
Denise Gagnon	Quebec Federation of Labour (FTQ)
Steven Shrybman	Sack, Goldblatt & Mitchell
Simon Berlin	SEPB-Quebec, Assistant Director
Ken Neumann	United Steelworkers - Canada (USW), National Director
Charles Campbell	USW - Canada

- c.c.p. Lic. Fernando Gómez Mont, Secretario de Gobernación
- c.c.p. Lic. Francisco Javier Lozano Alarcón, Secretario del Trabajo y Previsión Social
- c.c.p. Lic. Francisco Ramírez Acuña, Presidente de la Mesa Directiva de la Cámara de Diputados del H. Congreso de la Unión
- c.c.p. Lic. Carlos Navarrete Ruiz, Presidente de la Mesa Directiva de la Cámara de Senadores del H. Congreso de la Unión
- c.c.p. H. Guillermo I. Ortiz Mayagoitia, Ministro Presidente de la Suprema Corte de Justicia de la Nación
- c.c.p. Francisco J. Barrio Terrazas, Mexican Ambassador to Canada
- c.c.p. H. Lawrence Cannon, Minister of Foreign Affairs – Canada
- c.c.p. H. Rona Ambrose, Minister of Labour – Canada
- c.c.p. H. Stockwell Day, Minister of International Trade – Canada
- c.c.p. Guillermo E. Rishchynski, Canada’s Ambassador to the United Mexican States
- c.c.p. Sindicato Mexicano de Electricistas (SME)