

KEN LEWENZA National President Président national JEAN-PIERRE FORTIN Quebec Director Directeur québécois PETER KENNEDY National Secretary-Treasurer Secrétaire-trésorier national

205 PLACER COURT, TORONTO, ONTARIO M2H 3H9 PHONE (416) 497-4110 FAX (416) 495-6559

April 6, 2010

TO: ALL CAW LOCAL UNION PRESIDENTS and RECORDING SECRETARIES

Greetings,

RE: CONSULTATIONS ON CANADA'S RETIREMENT INCOME SYSTEM

I wish to thank all the leadership for the tremendous work done so far on our CAW Pension campaign and the CLC "Retirement Security for Everyone" campaign.

Your involvement in the forums, lobbying and rallies has really brought the issue of pension reform to the forefront in all levels of government in Canada.

On March 24th, The Minister of Finance, Jim Flaherty announced there would be coast to coast consultations on Canada's retirement security system. Mr. Flaherty said, "Canadians work hard to realize their retirement dreams" and "Our government will be giving Canadians an unprecedented opportunity to provide direct input on the future security and soundness of Canada's retirement income system".

The public town hall meeting locations are scheduled for Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Quebec City, Quebec and Richmond, British Columbia (dates have not been announced).

While our union supports the consultation process the limited locations announced will deny many Canadians the opportunity to participate in the debate and have their voices heard. If Minister Flaherty truly believes in giving Canadians the opportunity to provide input he must expand the town hall locations and lengthen the time frame for this process.

This issue is too important to be limited to only three locations in Canada and be concluded in one month.

I am asking all CAW members to call Minister Flaherty's office in Ottawa at 613-992-6344 and in his riding at 905-665-8182 and demand that more locations be included in the consultation process as soon as possible since we have a limited amount of time.

You can also email him at flaherty.j@parl.gc.ca or jim@jimflahertymp.ca

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Please distribute this call for action in your newsletters and on Local union websites.

We will inform you of future actions and strategies in the near future.

In solidarity,

Jenny J. H. Ahn, Director

Membership Mobilization and Political Action

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cc

K. Lewenza, P. Kennedy, Assistants, J.P. Fortin

All National Representatives and National Coordinators