

April 2010

TO ALL CUPE CHARTERED ORGANIZATIONS

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

CUPE May Day Statement

The roots of May Day go back more than 120 years when hundreds of thousands of North American workers mobilized on May 1, 1886 to fight for an eight-hour day. The events that took place at Haymarket Square in Chicago and elsewhere across the continent symbolize the tenacity and commitment of the labour movement to change the world.

May Day is a time for workers around the globe to take stock of how far we've come – and the distance we must still go to improve conditions for all working people.

As the global economic crisis continues, there are many immediate challenges we must take on. Now that those who caused the meltdown have been bailed out, governments are increasingly targeting public services to pay the price for those bailouts.

This May Day, CUPE members are fighting to protect jobs, pensions and the important public services that we provide that are even more vital for Canadians during an economic downturn. We will continue to utilize our collective knowledge and front-line expertise to advance alternatives that will protect services, create jobs in all sectors and build stable, prosperous communities.

May Day also symbolizes the international spirit of our movement. This May 1, CUPE will continue to fight against the Harper government's free trade deal with Colombia – a country with a gross record for human rights abuses and targeted assassinations of union and community leaders. We're also working with others to press world governments to address the HIV/AIDS crisis and fulfill a promise to provide access to HIV treatment, prevention, care and support for all those who need it.

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CUPE members – now more than 600,000 from coast to coast – can be proud of the accomplishments of our union even in the face of adversity. We're bigger, better and stronger.

This May 1, we encourage you to celebrate what we have accomplished and reaffirm your commitment to our collective vision for change.

In solidarity,



PAUL MOIST
National President



CLAUDE GÉNÉREUX
National Secretary-Treasurer