



United Electrical, Radio and Machine
Workers of America
and
Unifor



North American Solidarity Project

Joint Statement from the Port Elgin Conference, November 2018

Our world is dangerously unequal and increasingly divided. On one hand, wealth is concentrated in the same hands and the rich are getting richer. On the other hand, working people are working longer and harder, and earning less. Across North America, right-wing governments threaten to roll back hard-fought workers' rights for the benefit of corporations and business elites. In the face of right-wing populism, anti-immigrant rhetoric, and rising inequality, unions must act to counter-balance the forces that attack workers' rights and undermine equality for all. We must organize against the alt right, against racist and fascist organizations emerging in our communities, and to counter the spread of hate speech that seeks to divide workers and communities.

The world we live in is in urgent need of deep transformations. Climate change is the inter-generational challenge of our times demanding urgent action and just economic transitions. Public services and utilities continue to be privatized and eroded and leave us struggling to provide for the needs of people, whether through inaccessible costs for accessing health care or lack of clean, drinking water. Millions of working people face social deficits and economic bankruptcy due to the lack of rights for comprehensive medical services. Precarious work is the new normal and good full-time union jobs are harder and harder to find. Communities of color and Indigenous peoples face compounded challenges in accessing housing, education and employment while being disproportionately incarcerated and the target of police violence. Workers continue to face intersecting and compounding discrimination based on systems of race, social class, gender, sexuality and disability.

We come together to express our commitment to a strong labour movement and solidarity based on values of social unionism and an urgent need for union renewal. We will fight for equitable salaries and working conditions throughout North America towards the highest standards. Raising the floor for low income workers is necessary to win social and economic progress for all working people. We commit to fight for recognition and application of ILO Standards 87 and 98 on the right to organize and the right to free collective bargaining for workers across our continent.

Our commitment to independent labour politics and social unionism is one of action: where our unions are the counter-balancing force that can lead the fight for the world we want to live in.

We believe that empowering rank and file workers must be the core mission to organize successfully and achieve workplace democracy and fairness at work. Workers need unions more than ever and unions must change to connect and represent their needs and interests with militant action and not complacency.

We believe that it is time for unions to present a bold vision for social change and union renewal that unites the working class. We have done it before, and we must do it again.

The North American Solidarity Project is an ongoing alliance, network, and forum for mutual support, learning, shared resources, and action. We come together based on shared values to cooperate across borders as equals. We believe that together we can be a force for change to advance the labour movement and social justice for all.

It is through our unions that working people can give ourselves the means to fight for a better world.