



June 3, 2010

To: All Labour Council Presidents

File: 2010704/Convention

Greetings!

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities at their recent convention on May 28th – 31st, 2010 in Toronto passed an emergency resolution sponsored by the City of Toronto, calling on the Conservative government to expand the Canada Pension Plan (CPP), increasing seniors Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) by 15%, protect Canadian pensions through a federal system of pension insurance and also to call for a National Pension Summit.

Canada's mayors and councillors voted, almost unanimously, on the attached emergency resolution that supports the expansion of CPP. As a follow-up to this very important resolution, we are asking all Labour Councils to do the following prior to the June 13th - 14th Finance Ministers Meeting in Crowbush, near Morrell, Prince Edward Island.

- 1) Phone the mayor of your community. Tell them about the FCM's emergency resolution and ask them to write a letter to their federal and provincial Finance Ministers to urge them to support the four principles of this emergency resolution.
- 2) Follow-up with a letter requesting the same.
- 3) Please copy Danny Mallett, National Director of Political Action and Campaigns Department, on all your correspondence so we can get a sense of contacts being made. <dmallett@clc-ctc.ca> or fax #: 613-521-4655

Attached is the emergency resolution that was passed at the FCM. Time is of the essence. With less than a week before the Finance Ministers meet, we have to move quickly.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

In solidarity,

Kenneth V. Georgetti
President

c.c. Executive Council Regional Directors & Staff Michael MacIsaac Danny Mallett



EMERGENCY RESOLUTION

May 2010

BCMC10.2.02

EXPANSION OF CANADA'S PUBLIC PENSION SYSTEM

WHEREAS The Canadian economic downturn is putting the retirement security of many workers at risk; and

WHEREAS Canadian cities are directly impacted as they are key front line providers of social services and support programs for older workers and retirees; and

WHEREAS Ontario cities bear an additional portion of the cost of providing such programs; and

WHEREAS The significant economic downturn in combination with an increased number of employer bankruptcies across various sectors have resulted in under-funded pension plans and the actual and potential loss of promised pension benefits; and

WHEREAS Only one in four private sector workers belong to an employer pension plan and the remaining 3 out of 4 workers must rely more heavily on personal savings to provide for their retirement; and

WHEREAS The Canadian public pension system including Old Age Security (OAS) and the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) plus the Canada Pension Plan (CPP) is safe but falls well short of replacing the 50% to 70% of pre-retirement income needed to maintain a decent standard of living; therefore, be it

RESOLVED That the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) support expansion of Canada's public pension system by and at the cost of the Federal Government and not municipalities:

1. by increasing the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) by 15%, so no senior lives in poverty; and
2. by protecting Canadian pensions through a federal system of pension insurance; and be it further

RESOLVED That FCM support the call on the federal government to hold a national summit on the issue of pensions and support the expansion of the Canada Pension Plan.

*City of Toronto, Ontario
FCM's Big City Mayors Caucus*