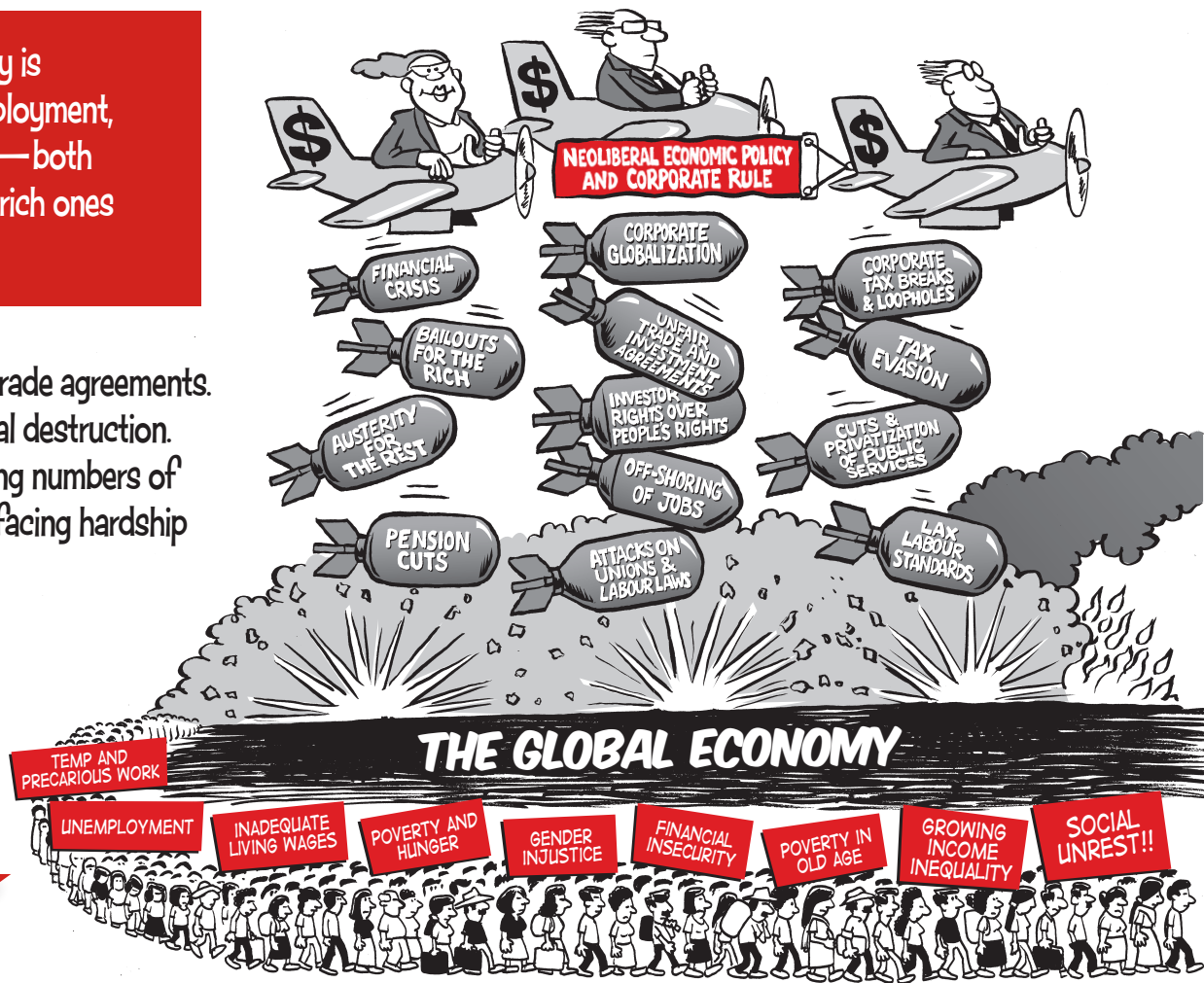


Today's global economy is causing poverty, unemployment, and growing inequality — both in poor countries AND rich ones like Canada.

Financial crisis. Unfair trade agreements. Austerity. Environmental destruction. The list goes on. Growing numbers of people everywhere are facing hardship and uncertain futures.

We can help solve this crisis by demanding...



DECENT WORK FOR ALL

WHAT IS "DECENT WORK"?



DECENT WORK IS WORK THAT...

- ➔ is meaningful and productive
- ➔ pays a living wage
- ➔ provides benefits and social protections
- ➔ is protected by strong labour laws that guarantee workers' rights, including freedom of association (the right to join and be represented by a union)



Everyone should have access to Decent Work—it sounds like a no-brainer. Yet even in some rich countries like Canada, millions of people are facing bleak working lives as the quality of jobs, working conditions and labour rights are allowed to steadily erode.



Decent work benefits both individuals AND communities. It helps maintain family stability, creates peace in communities, promotes healthy democratic participation, and leads to more equitable and productive economic growth.

LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT THE ILO'S "DECENT WORK AGENDA" ➔

THE ILO'S "DECENT WORK AGENDA"

The International Labour Organisation is working with **governments**, **employers** and **workers** in many countries around the world on policies that create and sustain decent work.



WHAT IS THE ILO?

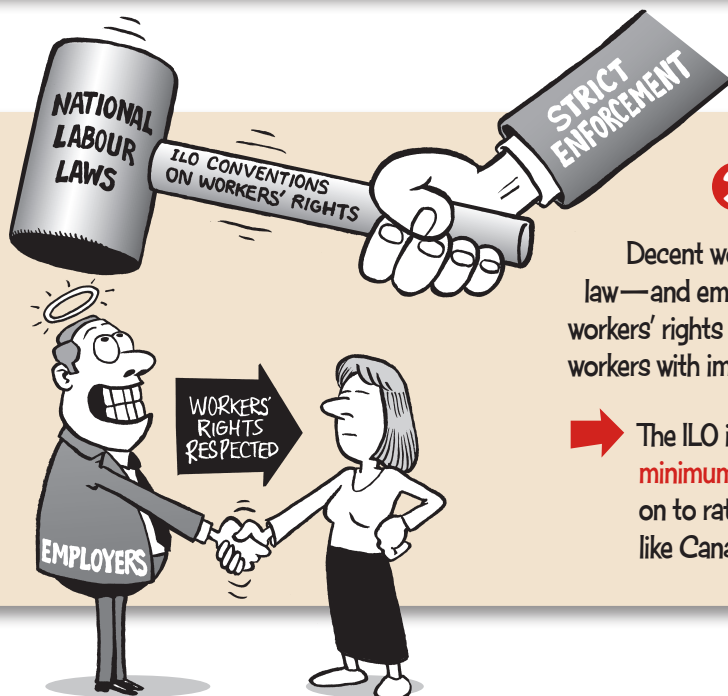
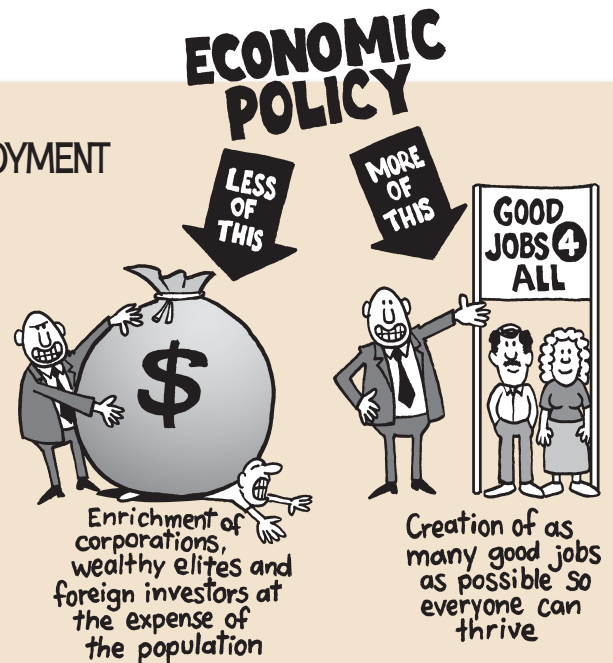
The International Labour Organization (ILO) is an agency of the United Nations that works to improve working conditions, enhance and protect labour rights, and achieve greater social justice for workers and communities around the world.

The Decent Work Agenda has four key strategies

1 CREATE MORE JOBS AND PROMOTE FULL EMPLOYMENT

Decent jobs are urgently needed in most countries around the world. When governments just aim for economic-growth-at-any-cost, it doesn't necessarily benefit workers. A healthy economy needs the kind of growth that creates good jobs. Governments must make job creation the main purpose of their economic policy.

➔ The ILO is working with governments to identify economic and social policies that lead to the creation of good jobs. ILO Convention 122 makes this mandatory.



2 PROTECT RIGHTS AT WORK

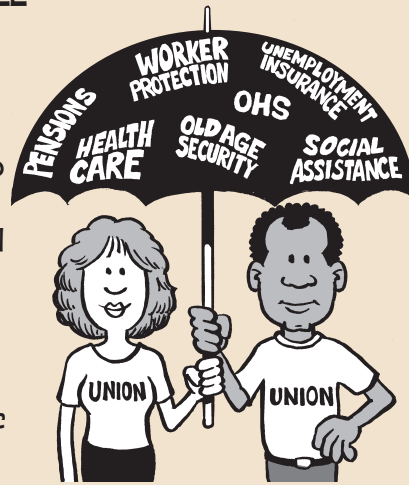
Decent work can't exist unless workers' rights are protected by law—and employers comply with those obligations. Respect for workers' rights is poor at best, and employers are often free to abuse workers with impunity.

➔ The ILO is working to get all countries to adopt a set of **minimum international labour standards**. Countries are called on to ratify a core set of ILO conventions. Those that sign up, like Canada, are legally bound to protect workers' rights.

3 SOCIAL PROTECTION FOR ALL

Social protection is an important part of decent work—and the UN even considers it a **human right**. Social protection means protection from economic hardship due to job loss, gender, age and other forms of discrimination, as well as worker injury or ill health from disease, such as AIDS.

➔ All workers must be entitled to a pension or other old age support, affordable health care, and economic support in case of unemployment.



BONUS STRATEGY!!

EMPOWER WOMEN ECONOMICALLY

A truly fair decent work plan must give special consideration to the needs of women. But it's not just about fairness. According to the ILO, empowering women economically improves national economies, household productivity and living standards. Learn more by downloading *Decent Work and Women's Economic Empowerment: Good Policy and Practice*. Find it at: <http://bit.ly/1Km2a1s>



4 BETTER SOCIAL DIALOGUE

An important condition for decent work in any economy is strong social dialogue. What is social dialogue? It's all types of negotiation, consultation and exchange of information among representatives of **workers, employers and governments**.

➔ Strong social dialogue helps keep all parties working together—and that boosts productivity and economic growth.

SO, HOW IS CANADA DOING ON DECENT WORK?

Back in 2009, world leaders meeting in Pittsburgh agreed to put **quality jobs** at the heart of economic recovery plans, yet Canada has failed to do so.

FAIL!

Canada **has not** officially agreed to implement the ILO's Decent Work Agenda.

FAIL!

Canada has ratified ILO Convention 122 on Employment Policy (which requires nations to develop a full employment plan of action, in consultation with social partners), **but has not acted on it!**

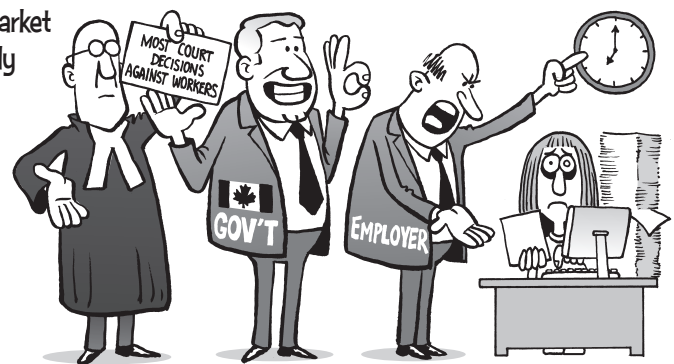
FAIL!

Meanwhile, Canada's job market is weaker than before partly because our government has **eroded the power of unions** to fight for:

- worker rights
- retirement security
- work-life balance
- training opportunities
- pay equity and gender equality
- better access to income support
- health and safety protections
- job support for marginalised communities

As a result more and more workers in Canada are forced to accept **precarious and temporary jobs** with no pension and few, if any, rights.

FAIL!



FAIL!



HOW CAN WE RESTORE AND STRENGTHEN DECENT WORK IN CANADA?

First, a few general ideas:



WE NEED TO RESIST THE FORCES THAT WANT TO TAKE EXISTING DECENT WORK AWAY.



- ➔ Stop so-called "right-to-work" laws that undermine and attack union and worker rights and the commonly understood "Rand Formula."
- ➔ Reject free trade agreements that give foreign corporations the right to sue our federal, provincial, and local governments over laws and policies that benefit citizens, like favouring local businesses that create jobs.
- ➔ Say "No" to governments that cut and privatize important public services.
- ➔ Support laws that facilitate workers joining unions.
- ➔ Support Supreme Court decisions that recognize the right to strike and collective bargaining.

AT THE SAME TIME WE NEED TO FIGHT FOR NEW DECENT WORK IN OUR COMMUNITIES...



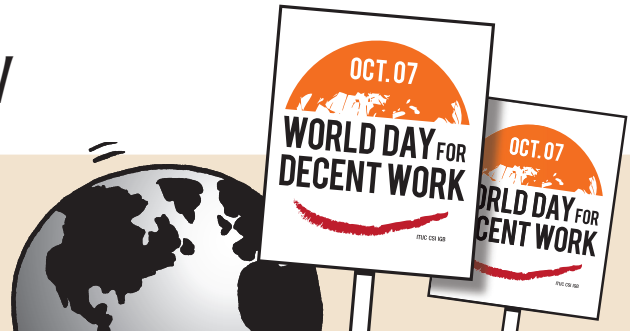
- ➔ Vote FOR governments that take an active role supporting industries and public services that create good jobs.
- ➔ Support campaigns that are fighting for improved labour standards, higher minimum wages, a quality child care system, and an end to precarious work.
- ➔ Global unions must push for tough measures to convert temporary jobs to permanent ones, and call for corporate accountability.

...AND MEASURES THAT SUPPORT DECENT WORK!



Some specific things you can do NOW

1 The global labour movement has declared October 7 as the World Day for Decent Work. Get involved by organizing a concrete action in advance of this date.



2 Get your organization to adopt a resolution on decent work and send a message to the Canadian Minister of Labour.

Adopt a model resolution on full employment. Here is a copy:
<http://bit.ly/TYRvdDT>

See the CLC International Department Updates:
<http://bit.ly/1QmLryT>

3 Work with the CLC International Department to implement ILO standards in Canada for working men and women equally.

Contact us at: international@clc-ctc.ca



Learn more about the the decent work agenda at www.ilo.org and www.canadianlabour.ca

A copy of this document is available at:
 English: <http://bit.ly/YQRRw9>
 Français: <http://bit.ly/TPPGntk>

