INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF BOILERMAKERS

boilermaker.ca

Joseph Maloney, International Vice-President

Via Email

November 04, 2016

Mr. Hassan Yussuff
President
Canadian Labour Congress
2841 Riverside Drive
Ottawa Ontario
K1V 8X7

Dear Sir and Brother,

Regarding: One Million Climate Jobs

I am in receipt of a copy of the CLC backgrounder to the Conference of the Parties (COP 22) in Morocco next week, titled *"One Million Climate Jobs, A Challenge for Canada."*

I was surprised and disappointed to see that carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) technology was not included in the strategic priorities for lowering our carbon emissions to meet the goals set by the UN Paris Agreement.

CCS, on the scale we are using it in Canada, is a relatively new technology but already is proving itself to be a viable way of making significant reductions in our carbon output. Shell Canada's Quest CCS facility in northern Alberta, built by the members of my union, recently passed the one million ton mark in the removal and capture of carbon emissions after little more than a year in operation.

CCS technology is also being used extensively in Alberta's first new oil refinery in three decades, currently under construction by a workforce led by Boilermakers. The Sturgeon Refinery will produce diesel fuel that is thirty percent (30%) cleaner than the equivalent produced with light oil in Texas and it will also collect and sequester carbon from other large industrial facilities as much as two hundred (200) kilometers away.

Advances in the design of CCS technology are rapidly making it an economically viable way of reducing our carbon output. In fact, the chair of the consortium building the above-mentioned Sturgeon Refinery with an investment of some $25 billion believes that CCS alone could contribute the major part of our success in meeting our Paris commitments. Canada is already a world leader in building large-scale CCS projects and, with experience; we'll bring improvements and efficiencies to a technology that is already making a real difference.

Mr. Hassan Yussuff
November 04, 2016
Page Two

The goal of a no-carbon economy is a fine one but it is utopian in the near to medium term. Even if we eliminated every fuel burning vehicle on the road in Canada, we would still need an estimated forty percent (40%) of our current oil output for everything from plastics to pharmaceuticals to industrial lubricants. And renewable energy sources like wind and solar power are, with present technology, incapable of reliably replacing electrical power generated by burning fossil fuels.

To ignore CCS in this context is tantamount to admitting that Canada will not meet its Paris commitments. It is unrealistic to expect that solar and wind power, in the foreseeable future, will replace industrial activity based on petroleum products. As far as I can see, there are no plans to invest $53 billion in renewable energy and green buildings, nor will a national investment of $27 billion in public transportation, although laudable, even begin to make up our infrastructure deficit and make the kinds of improvements that would make it an attractive option for Canadians. (For example, the Ontario government is making a $15-billion investment in GO Transit improvements to benefit the Greater Toronto Area alone.)

Ignoring CCS in this context is to disregard a technology that can provide real results now and in the near future, not in forty (40) years and not dependent on vague plans to build an industry and infrastructure that barely exist yet in Canada.

If we look at the CLC's goals to reduce carbon emissions and took a mean of approximately 150 million tons from the stated range, carbon capture from the Shell Quest facility alone would meet ten percent (10%) of that goal and probably more if improvements are made by 2030. This is a technology that cannot be responsibly ignored.

There is, of course, another reason for my concern over the omission of CCS from the CLC's backgrounder for COP 22. The concern revolves around the hundreds of thousands of Canadian workers, many of them members of CLC affiliated unions who, directly and indirectly, depend on our energy industry for their jobs. Many thousands of these workers are members of building trades unions like ours, and they are justifiably concerned that the CLC seems to be unaware of their apprehensions about vague promises to create new jobs without any realistic investment and business plan.

The "million jobs" promised by the CLC backgrounder is, in fact, not a million jobs, but a million person job years which, over a 14 year period until 2030, means 71,500 jobs. I am disappointed to see the CLC seemingly take a page from Tim Hudak's election playbook in this regard.

As you can undoubtedly tell, Hassan, I am extremely concerned about this and intend to pursue it vigorously within the CLC. I would very much appreciate it if your office could facilitate a meeting on this subject with those concerned, and especially the research staff involved, to explore the viewpoint of my union and the other building trades with respect to this issue. I look forward to hearing from you on this issue at your earliest convenience.

In solidarity, I remain,

Cordially and fraternally yours,

JOSEPH MALONEY
International Vice-President

Copy to: (via email)

- Newton B. Jones, International President
- International Executive Council
- International Representatives (Canada)
- Construction Business Managers (Canada)