



October 17, 2011

File: 20402-C02

To: Members of the CLC Canadian Council

Greetings!

Re: **Application by the CLC to suspend and expel CLAC Canada from ITUC membership, based on art IV of the ITUC Constitution**

I am pleased to advise you that the General Council of the International Trade Union Confederation voted unanimously today to suspend CLAC from ITUC membership. Under the ITUC Constitution only the ITUC Congress can expel an affiliate from membership and the matter will be considered at the next Congress in 2014.

I am enclosing the recommendation of the ITUC Secretariat to the General Council for your information.

We will be reviewing this decision at the Canadian Council meeting in November.

I want to express my appreciation and thanks to the affiliates and federations who provided us with the information we needed to make a successful case.

In solidarity,

Ken Georgetti  
President

Enclosure

KVG\*fh/cope225  
CLAC-Expel-ITUC-2011-10-17-EN

## **Canada, CLAC – CLC**

65. The secretariat has sent a delegation to meet CLC and CLAC and to collect the necessary information to advise the GC on the request of CLC to suspend and to expel CLAC from ITUC membership.

66. The report of the mission can be found in appendix V of this document.

67. On the basis of the report and the recommendations of the mission the ITUC secretariat concludes that:

- CLAC uses instruments enabled by weak legislation and on invitations of employers that in practice contest efforts of CLC unions to organise workers in their companies, which results in undermining minimum labour standards and undermining CLC efforts to organise workers in many companies especially in the construction sector,
- CLAC feels obliged to use certain instruments and methods (mainly) because it opposes to the existing system of closed shops in the Canadian construction sector. CLAC also has taken the initiative to present itself as “alternative” to employers that are against unionising by CLC.
- In its leaflets CLAC expressed negative opinions about CLC to challenge workers to choose for CLAC as an alternative.
- In many cases CLAC made agreements with employers shortly after CLC started organising unions in these companies. Also by accepting lower labour conditions in case of economic circumstances or competition from outside, CLAC accepts a “race to the bottom”.

68. The secretariat concludes that by its published policy and by its activity CLAC indeed undermines labour conditions of workers and hinders in an active way the organising activities of CLC unions. The secretariat considers that as acting against the interest of the ITUC and its other members in Canada and proposes the GC to suspend CLAC from ITUC membership as described in article IV of the ITUC constitution.

69. Since only Congress has the right to expel an organisation from ITUC membership and given the fact that the next ITUC Congress is scheduled for 2014, this gives CLAC the opportunity to change its attitude and practice in the coming years.

70. The ITUC secretariat would be prepared to monitor the developments and to advise Congress on a final decision to expel CLAC from ITUC membership in 2014.