



Invitation to Participate in May Day 2014

Dear PSAC Locals of Windsor-Essex;

May Day is the day of International Working Class Solidarity. It is a historic day in which the workers of all countries and nations stand together at one time in defence of their interests as workers. May Day 2014 will be a chance to build the unity of workers across Canada with those around the world in defence of their rights and to reflect on what we have achieved in the last year and throughout our history.

The Organizing Committee is inviting all unions to contribute to May Day as a way to bring forward their own specific fight for rights so that we can support one another in our common struggles. The last year has seen stepped-up attacks on unions and the rights of workers to bargain collectively. Your own experience with the Harper government's attack on public services, including Veterans Affairs and others are important examples. The last year has also seen new resistance that has shown governments do not have a mandate for this. The opposition of your union to the closure of VA offices alongside the veterans is a notable contribution. This May 1st will mark the 3rd anniversary of the election that resulted in the Harper government gaining a majority, with one more year until the next federal election. It may also occur in the middle of a provincial general election. It will be an important chance to unify our struggles.

The theme of this year's May Day is "Celebrating Our Rights, Securing Our Future!" It was chosen to show that workers' rights, such as the right to a livelihood, to collective bargaining, to a safe workplace, to education etc. are not problems that stand in the way of progress; they are in fact the condition for social progress. This is important today as governments of all stripes try to assert that in the age of austerity, rights have to be violated to ensure prosperity.

To express this theme we are organizing a family-friendly march followed by a Living Labour Village on Thursday May 1. The march will begin at 4:30 pm. The Labour Village is being hosted by the Greater Essex District of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation at their new building at 547 Victoria Ave in downtown Windsor. Groups are encouraged to creatively express this year's theme at the Labour Village drawing on their own experiences and struggles. May Day also marks the beginning of May Works Windsor, a month-long celebration of working class culture.

What Are We Asking Of You

We are asking unions to contribute to May Day so it is a success and reflects the broad workers' movement in Windsor and Essex County. May Day is a chance for workers to contribute to their own cause as workers. As such, whatever your union can contribute is appreciated. First and foremost we encourage you to invite your members to participate and bring your flags and union gear to the march and village to show your presence. Each participating union or group will be allocated a table in the Labour Village to display information about their fight for rights and/or creatively express their message. There will be a stage for performances and a creative consultant who is available to help you come up with a creative way to participate if you so wish. (A skit alerting people to stand with you in the face of the Harper government's attacks on your members might be a good idea :)

Financial and In-Kind Contributions

To make the day a success we need financial and in-kind contributions. Our budget this year is approximately \$3,000. We are providing a tent for the village, the infrastructure (power, sound etc.) as well as food for participants. If you can contribute funds, or in-kind contributions such as a BBQ and food, T-shirts etc. it would be greatly appreciated. All financial contributions can be made out to the Windsor May Day Organizing Committee.

How to Start

We recommend that your locals start by passing a resolution to be part of May Day 2014. Then you can select a point person or committee (such as Political Action) either for the region or each local to coordinate your participation. Our committee will contact them directly to offer help in whatever way we can. You can then send out a flyer for May Day to your membership inviting people to mark it in their calendars. (We will be producing flyers that you can use if you wish.) Finally, locals can pass a motion for a financial contribution which we can arrange to pick up, or let us know the in-kind contribution you can make. We look forward to hearing back from you with any questions or concerns. Together we can make May Day 2014 an important milestone for the workers of Windsor and Essex County!

Sample Motions

Be it resolved that _____ participate in May Day 2014

Be it further resolved that _____ be assigned to coordinate our participation in May Day 2014

Be it further resolved that _____ contribute \$ _____ to the May Day Organizing Committee to help make May Day 2014 a success.