



January 9, 2006

To: Members of the Executive Council
Ranking Officers of Affiliated Organizations
District Labour Councils
Members of CLC Standing Committees

Re: Better Choice 2006 Campaign

Now that we are all into the second stage of the federal election, I would like to provide you with an update of phase 2 of the CLC Better Choice 2006 Campaign which was launched on January 4, 2006 in Vancouver and Toronto.

The Congress Officers will be spending most of the next three weeks in various communities across Canada visiting local work sites, handing out leaflets, participating in union events and doing media interviews and open line shows. As these events are planned and finalized with the affiliates and local unions, they will be posted on the Better Choice web site.

On Saturday, January 7, I joined Jack Layton and Jim Sinclair at a rally in Vancouver to generate union involvement in the campaign.

Over a million copies of the CLC leaflet "*Making a better choice - putting working families first*" are now being distributed to union households and work sites across the country. This leaflet provides information to workers and their families on some of the issues that are important to working people. It is our experience that if union members and their families cast their ballots on the basis of the issues that are important to them as working families, rather than issues such as taxes as defined by the Conservatives, there is significantly increased support for our issues.

These leaflets are being distributed by over 120 organizers from the affiliates who are working with the Congress staff and Officers to get to as many union work sites and locations as possible. Also, many affiliates are mailing the leaflet directly to their members.

The CLC web site for the campaign, www.betterchoice.ca is now online and features downloadable fact sheets on the major issues for the labour movement in the campaign. The labour issues campaign was discussed and adopted by the Executive Council in November 2005. The priority issues in the campaign are: health care, pensions and retirement security, equality for women, jobs and trade, education and training and workers' rights which includes anti-scab legislation. These fact sheets are in pdf format and can be downloaded and used by anyone.

Also on the web site are background papers on all of the major issues we want to see politicians address during the campaign and which we will continue to advocate and lobby on after the election.

A 'Daily Update' with commentary on some of the previous day's events will be posted every weekday for the next three weeks. As well, a feature on 'What the Parties are Saying' will be posted regularly looking at how the political parties are dealing with the labour movement's issues, including those in the Better Choice 2006 Campaign and others of importance such as child care.

I want to thank all of the affiliates that contributed organizers to the campaign, are distributing leaflets and working with the Congress in planning local events.

I am convinced that if we all pull together we can have a positive influence so that union workers and members of their households vote in their own self-interest for the party which best represents them.

It is important for us all to remember that we need people in Parliament who will support the issues that are important to working families and join us in achieving even more progressive legislation. Two years ago, we embarked on the first labour issues campaign and because of both the make up of Parliament and our ongoing focus, we were able to obtain gains for working people. Better Choice 2006 campaign is only the beginning of the next step to make even more gains and the day after the election we will need to shift gears, get our advocacy and lobbying efforts in action, and put the pressure on Members of Parliament one more time.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Georgetti', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Kenneth V. Georgetti
President

cc: CLC Staff