



Convention 2009
Edmonton

Global Justice Committee Report



Committee members

- Mike McCain - Chair
- Alice Lerchs - Secretary
- Kristin Gregory - Young Worker (Absent)
- Jake Braaten - Liasion
- Greg Ingram - National Representative



Mandate

- Promote and educate awareness of Global Justice issues and programs.
- Facilitate improved working conditions for all workers through encouraging,
“thinking globally but acting locally.”
- Encourage participation in initiatives that protect workers rights.



Global Justice Events in 2008

**Iran: Protest
intensified repression
against labour activists
- No to whippings and
executions!**



Global Justice Events in 2008

- Repression against labour activists in Iran is intensifying.
- Two women labour activists (Sousan Razani and Shiva Kheirabadi) sentenced to 15 lashes and four months in prison -- for the "crime" of participating in a May Day celebration.



Global Justice Events in 2008

Published: Wednesday, June 18, 2008 - EDMONTON

Some abuse of foreigners working temporarily in Alberta is unavoidable because of conditions in their home countries, Alberta's minister of Employment and Immigration suggested Wednesday.



Convention '09 - Edmonton

Global Justice Events in 2008

Published: Wednesday, June 18, 2008 - EDMONTON

Hector Goudreau was reacting to news that as many as 120 Chinese workers were paid a fraction of what they were owed for work building tanks at a northern Alberta oilsands site.



Convention '09 - Edmonton

Global Justice Events in 2008

Abuse of foreign workers unavoidable, Alta. Tories suggest

Elise Stolte, Canwest News Service

- **The concerns became public only after two of the workers were killed on the job.**
- **When their widows were contacted in China, the wages they said their husbands were taking home were less than 12 per cent of what they should have been paid.**



Global Justice Events in 2008

Abuse of foreign workers unavoidable, Alta. Tories suggest – continued...
Elise Stolte, Canwest News Service

- **Further research showed the right amount was paid into each employee's bank account, but disappeared before it reached families in China.**
- **"It appears that SSEC (the Canadian arm of the Chinese employer) at some point failed to live up to obligations to its workers," Goudreau said.**



FULL STORY ON CANADA.COM

Global Justice Events in 2008



National GJ committee briefed on Colombia

October 8, 2008 06:37 PM

On Sept. 28th National President Paul Moist gives global justice committee glimpse of what working people in Colombia experience.



Global Justice Events in 2008



Moist was reporting on the public sector leadership tour of the South American country in July and their finding that free trade was precisely what working people did not need from Canada.



Global Justice Events in 2008



One day strike and Indigenous mobilizations in Colombia

October 27, 2008 11:45 AM

Colombia's central trade union federation (CUT) staged a one day national strike Oct. 23 to support a general strike by 9,000 sugar cane cutters in the Cauca Valley region and protests by Indigenous peoples.



Global Justice Events in 2008



Wal-Mart to Defend Quebec Store Closure

Source: CBC News

Posted: 01/21/09 1:45PM



Convention '09 - Edmonton

Global Justice Events in 2008

Wal-Mart to Defend Quebec Store Closure

Source: CBC News

The Supreme Court of Canada will hear arguments Wednesday on the legality of Wal-Mart's decision to shut down a Quebec store in the midst of a labour dispute.



Global Justice Events in 2008

The store in Saguenay closed in April 2005, just before an arbitrator was to impose a collective agreement for the unionized employees.

The company said the store wasn't profitable...,



Global Justice Events in 2008

Canada's top court to rule that the action was against the law.

The court will be asked to decide whether closing the store contravened freedom of association as enshrined in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.



Global Justice Events in 2009

Employers told to make case for foreign workers Feds say more effort needed to hire Canadians

By Alexandra Zabjek, With files from Sheila Pratt, The Edmonton Journal
March 6, 2009 9:01 AMBe

As job losses started to mount late last year, the federal government gave the green light to thousands of employer requests for temporary foreign workers in Alberta.



Global Justice Events in 2009

Employers told to make case for foreign workers Feds say more effort needed to hire Canadians

By Alexandra Zabjek, With files from Sheila Pratt, The Edmonton Journal
March 6, 2009 9:01 AMBe

7,159 labour market opinions, were issued to bring temporary foreign workers in Alberta in the last three months of 2008. That's down from the 8,710 issued from July to September, but an increase from the beginning of 2008, when 6,719 were issued.



Global Justice Events in 2009

Jim Gurnett of the Mennonite Centre for Newcomers, acknowledged Ottawa has taken some steps to ensure employers look for Canadian workers first.

But so far it's just "tinkering" with the system and has hardly slowed the flow of unskilled foreign workers, he said.



Global Justice Events in 2009

As for bringing in more unskilled workers, Raimundo said if the "slowdown continues, we anticipate the employers will use the program less."

Latest government statistics showed there were almost 60,000 temporary foreign workers in Alberta at the end of 2008, more than double the number from 2006.



Our work in 2008

Met in June and November 2008.

Encouraged participation in the National Global Justice Fund.

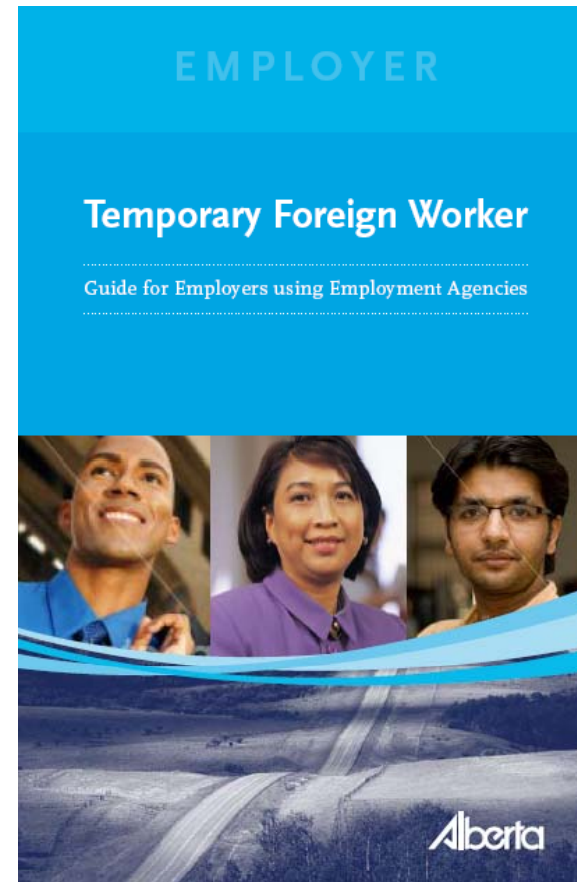
Created committee goals for 2009 – 2010.

Continued awareness of the issues for Temporary Foreign Workers in Alberta.



Our plans for 2009

- Temporary Foreign Workers:
 - Continue efforts of support on behalf of TFW's,
 - Continue gathering statistical information of TFW's in Alberta,
 - Educate and communicate TFW issues with our members and other stakeholders.



Our plans in 2009

- Encourage participation in the National Global Justice Fund,
- Develop link to the CUPE AB website to educate and communicate with membership,



Winter 2009

Stephen Lewis event raises \$35,000



Committee members with Stephen Lewis (centre) – Ron Greening (CUPE 500), Diana Ludwick (CUPE 2348), Deryse Lambert (CUPE 500) and Sue Roth (CUPE 1063).

THE CUPE Manitoba Global Justice Committee has once again helped raise funds to address the impact of HIV and AIDS on people in Africa. The committee collaborated with community groups such as Friends of Uganda to host a dinner in October for 400 people with invited guest speaker Stephen Lewis.

Lewis spoke eloquently about the tragic situation in Africa and particularly about the orphans and their desperate conditions. He noted however that there are dynamic organizations and individuals who are doing a great deal to turn the effects of the disease around. In particular he noted the important role of grandmothers across Africa who remain pillars of strength for their families, communities and nations.

Guests included the Minister of Health Theresa Oswald, Members of the Legislative Assembly, the Deputy High Commission of Uganda and other leaders in the international development community in Winnipeg.

The funds raised will go to the Stephen Lewis Foundation to help Ugandans affected with the disease. The Foundation has already distributed over \$25 million for water, food, health, education, sanitation and housing projects in Africa.

In 2005, the committee members raised \$50,000 for another project in northern Uganda, to help children and families rebuild their lives after the trauma of civil war.

CUPE

Global Justice is published by the Canadian Union of Public Employees and is available online at www.cupe.ca/globaljustice. Send suggestions to rsponce@cupe.ca

Our plans in 2009

- Develop a project that enables & empowers CUPE Alberta members to aid our brothers & sisters abroad.



Your ideas welcome!

