

## **NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD RESOLUTION**

### **Renegotiation of the North America Free Trade Agreement**

#### CUPE NATIONAL WILL:

1. Promote a vision of an alternative model of trilateral trade and cooperation that meets the needs of workers and builds solidarity across our shared continent;
2. Demand that the Canadian government ensure the interests of working people and our environment are their first priority during the renegotiations on the North America Free Trade Agreement, and ensure the protection of public services and the strengthening of labour rights and environmental protections throughout the renegotiation process;
3. Pressure the Canadian government to ensure that any renegotiated trade agreement will dispense with Chapter 11 and the Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) mechanisms;
4. Participate in and encourage the CLC to be part of trilateral campaigns, such as “Raise Wages, not Walls”, that are already taking shape in Mexico and the US; and
5. Support the work of international and Canadian community groups and allies who are pressuring governments on trade-related human rights issues and environmental sustainability.

#### BECAUSE:

- In the 23 years since NAFTA was signed, Canada has lost 800,000 manufacturing jobs, and our communities have suffered from the decline in public revenues generated by such jobs;
- While the US President, and others, believe that these jobs have “been stolen” by Mexico, Mexico has not benefited greatly from NAFTA either: wages there are still a fraction of the wages in Canada and the US, and unemployment levels remain high;
- The renegotiation of NAFTA brings with it risk to public services, labour rights, and environmental standards, and we must ensure their protection;

- Under NAFTA's ISDS provisions, Canada has become the most-sued country in the developed world.
- While we have always opposed NAFTA, we recognize this is an opportunity to challenge our government to fundamentally remake NAFTA: to create a new model of alternative trade and cooperation that works for all of North America, that does not allow investors to sue governments, that protects public services, respects human and labour rights, and that raises living conditions in all three countries; and
- We recognize that achieving fundamental change to this agreement cannot be accomplished alone, so we must ally with workers across North America in our fight.