



STRONG, HEALTHY, GREEN: THE **COMMUNITIES** WE WANT

CUPE / Canadian Union
of Public Employees



THE COMMUNITIES WE WANT

They are the building blocks of our country, and the bedrock of our daily lives. Municipalities are where we live, work and raise families.

We're all better off in cities and towns with healthy finances, strong public services and smart environmental practices. Municipalities are facing many financial, environmental and social challenges – but there are solutions.

As Canada's community union, the Canadian Union of Public Employees is committed to working with municipal leaders on these solutions. Together, we can build the communities we all want to live in.

Learn more about CUPE's practical, positive vision for municipalities in this book, and by visiting cupe.ca/communities

OUR COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Public services are the foundation of cities and towns. They build vibrant, stable communities where people can work, learn and thrive.

Social services, transit, child care, housing, libraries and recreation are great equalizers that help lift families out of poverty. And public services are crucial to Canada's ongoing economic recovery. Public services also create good jobs. These days, municipalities are under financial pressure. But cutting jobs and services is a false economy. With each public sector job cut, four other jobs can disappear, as spending in the local economy drops. Municipal revenues shrink and demand for services grows.

There is a better way. Together we can support and strengthen public services. Learn more at cupe.ca/communities/foundation



BUILD WELL-FUNDED COMMUNITIES

Municipalities need stable finances to meet their growing responsibilities. Municipalities need more revenue-raising power, and more support from upper levels of government.

Municipalities are responsible for over half the country's public infrastructure. Yet they receive only eight cents of every tax dollar collected. Adding to the pressure is Canada's \$120-billion infrastructure deficit. Without full revenue-raising power, municipalities are forced to rely on regressive property taxes and user fees for more than three quarters of their revenue.

There is a better way. Together, we can ensure municipalities are on a sound financial footing that meets growing needs. Learn more at cupe.ca/communities/finance





PROTECT THE PUBLIC ADVANTAGE

We enjoy good quality of life thanks to public services. Canadians expect their services to be accountable, accessible, locally-controlled and a wise investment of tax dollars.

Privatization undermines these community values. Contracting out and public-private partnerships are risky and expensive for municipalities and taxpayers. Costs rise, quality suffers and local control is weakened. Services are less accessible, and projects are delayed. Public funds are diverted from core services to corporate profits.

There is a better way. When services are public and well-funded, they deliver a solid, reliable foundation Canadians can count on. Together, let's keep it public. Learn more at cupe.ca/communities/public



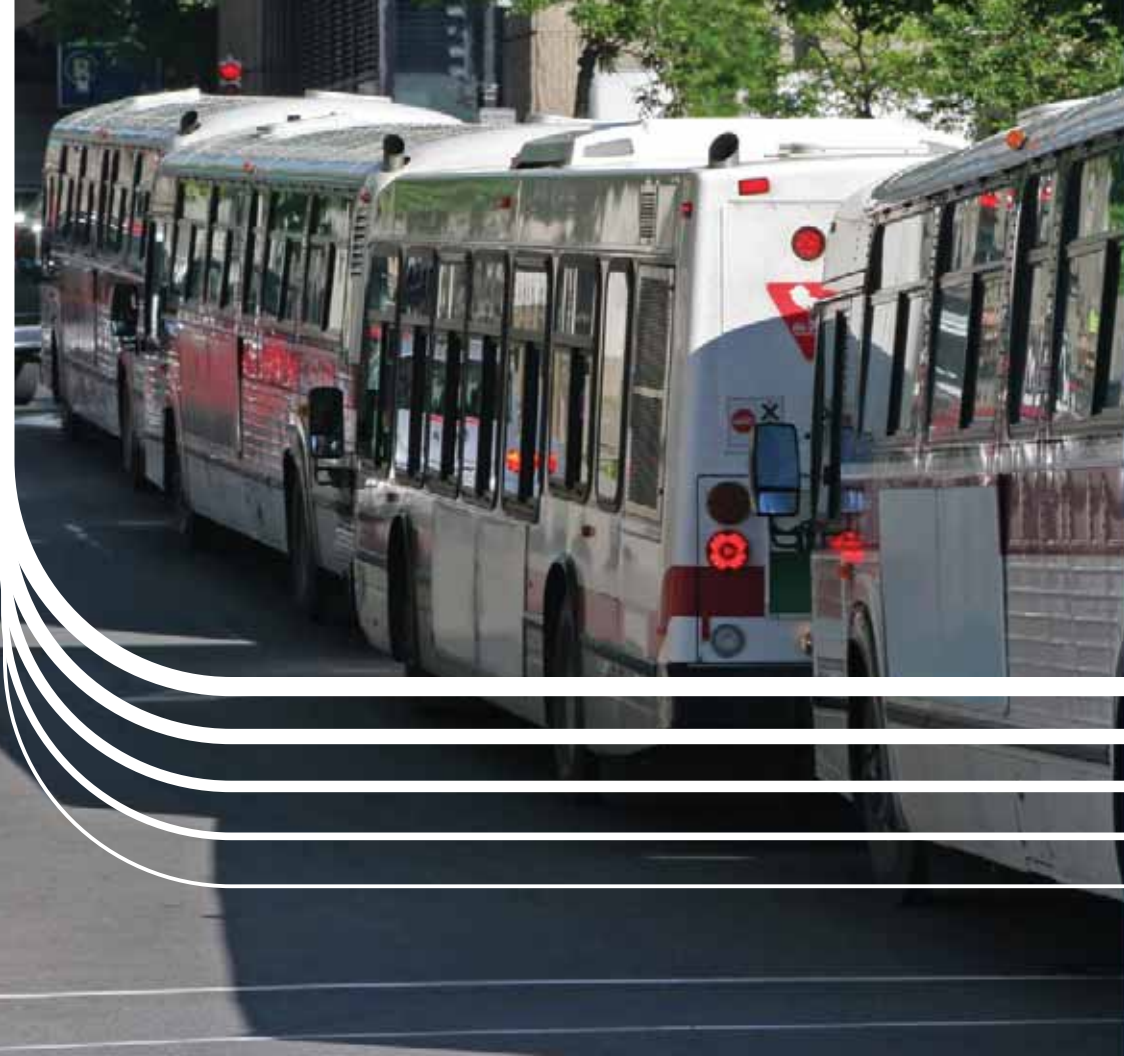
TAKE SUSTAINABLE ACTION

Canadians want to live in environmentally-sustainable communities. But our society still creates and dumps too much garbage.

Municipalities can take significant steps to reduce, reuse and recycle solid waste. Companies must take more responsibility for excess packaging and other waste. Municipalities are best-placed to deliver coordinated, cost-effective solid waste programs that keep garbage out of landfills and fuel the green economy. Publicly-delivered recycling is an investment that pays off, as revenues help offset program costs.

There is a better way. Publicly-delivered solid waste services are the key to keeping garbage out of landfills. Together, we can work towards “zero waste” communities. Learn more at cupe.ca/communities/waste





WORK FOR GREEN COMMUNITIES

We want to live in communities that tackle climate change. Municipalities can make strides by creating the green jobs of the future.

Many municipal services are already green jobs, including water and wastewater operations, garbage and recycling services, public transit, electricity conservation and urban planning that encourages walking and cycling. New, public green jobs are needed in source water protection and water conservation, energy conservation and small-scale renewable generation, recycling, and expanded public transit.

There is a better way. Communities benefit from green public sector jobs that stimulate local economies and enhance services. Together, we can lay the groundwork for a green future. Learn more at cupe.ca/communities/green



SUPPORT LOCAL DECISION-MAKING POWER

Canadians want their communities governed in the public interest. But municipal governments are rapidly losing their power to support community businesses and create local jobs

Local purchasing lets municipalities support community economic development and social objectives like ethical purchasing. But trade deals – like the new Canada-U.S. purchasing agreement, interprovincial deals, and a proposed Canada-European Union pact will strip municipalities of this important power. These deals will also expose key public services to even greater privatization threats.

There is a better way. Many municipalities are demanding to be consulted before any new trade deals are signed. Together, we can protect public services and local democracy. Learn more at cupe.ca/communities/trade





SECURE PENSIONS FOR ALL

As our population ages, the health of municipal economies will depend on the spending power of Canadian seniors.

By 2030 a quarter of Canadians will be over 65. Without decent pensions, the economic health of communities will suffer. Retirees living in poverty will rely more heavily on local public services. Pension reform is urgently needed because not enough workers have decent workplace plans.

There is a better way. Increasing Canada Pension Plan benefits while protecting and expanding good workplace pension plans will build decent lives for all seniors. Together, we can work for better pensions and a more secure future. Learn more at cupe.ca/communities/pensions



ACT NOW FOR OUR CITIES AND TOWNS

Let's make our communities strong, healthy and green. Visit cupe.ca/communities to learn more about the solutions discussed in this booklet.



LEARN MORE ABOUT CUPE'S PRACTICAL, POSITIVE VISION FOR MUNICIPALITIES BY VISITING CUPE.CA/COMMUNITIES



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