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January 15, 2010

To: CAW Local Unions, National Representatives, Co-ordinators, Support Staff

Re: Earthquake disaster in Haiti – URGENT REQUEST

The magnitude of the crisis in Haiti is even greater than originally identified. Reports now coming out of Haiti show that a disastrous earthquake has devastated the poorest country in this hemisphere. The capital, Port au Prince, is destroyed. We are hearing stories of collapsed buildings, thousands of deaths, many more injured. In a country without adequate health care, emergency services and infrastructure, people are traumatized, injured and lacking even basic assistance.

We want to express our profound condolences to those affected and their families. There are many Canadians of Haitian descent that are desperate to learn news about family and friends. We pledge to help those in Haiti who are in need.

Immediate humanitarian aid is essential for this already beleaguered country. Then the rebuilding process will begin. The CAW, and especially the Quebec section of our union, has a long history of working with Haiti. We continue to be involved in projects there, through out Social Justice Fund, mostly working with others through the Quebec Federation of Labour.

Now we must do much more. We are calling on CAW local unions to make the maximum donation to assist the people of Haiti during this most difficult time. Our goal is to raise \$250,000 with the goal of securing matching funds from the federal government of up to \$100,000. CAW National Representatives, Co-ordinators, and Support Staff are also donating one day's pay for this relief effort.

We are in the process of identifying the most appropriate aid agencies to direct relief and rebuilding funds. We will communicate this to you in the coming days. **Please make cheques payable to the CAW JF Haiti Fund Relief. This is an urgent request. Please send your support as quickly as possible to CAW Social Justice Fund, 205 Placer Court, Toronto, ON M2H 3H9.** Tax receipts, where appropriate, will be issued.

Our members continue to live through very difficult economic times here in Canada. I thank you in advance for thinking of those in much more dire circumstances, and finding a way to help them survive and rebuild.

In solidarity,



Ken Lewenza
National President

c.c. NEB

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