

## Jobs and economic development

"The Government will do its part to enable the success of important sectors, including automotive, aerospace and other manufacturing, as well as agriculture and other resource-based industries."

**Speech from the Throne**  
as delivered, October 4, 2004

Today, we face major challenges, from the recent sharp rise in the value of the Canadian dollar, to the major shift of global industrial production to China and the growth of international outsourcing in the service sector.

Without a **national strategy to build our future economy**, Canadians will miss out on good jobs. The Canadian Labour Congress recommends a number of immediate steps for industrial and economic development:

### **Government support for new job-creating investments**

Major corporate investments in new plants can secure many good quality jobs, and many more quality spin-off jobs in supplier industries and local communities. The federal government currently provides some support for large business investments in research and development in the high technology sector through the Technology Partnerships Canada program. But restrictive program rules mean that Canada has lost major new investments in the automobile and other sectors to other countries.

### **Sector Strategies**

We need financial support from the federal government for sector strategies that increase investment and employment. All levels of government need to work with labour and business to plan for more and better jobs. Sector councils with meaningful participation by all stakeholders are a good way to accomplish this.

### **Support for Worker Adjustment**

Changes in trade and investment agreements often pose difficult adjustment challenges. Many industries, like clothing, need help for positive restructuring through new investments rather than through layoffs and plant closures. Workers who are laid-off need access to a decent Employment Insurance program, and effective training policies.

### **A Realistic Value for the Canadian Dollar**

Many of our export industries will be hard-pressed to maintain, let alone create, jobs if the dollar continues to rise to 80 cents US and beyond. With very low inflation and unemployment still at 7%, now is not the time to deliberately slow our economy with higher interest rates.

### **Green Jobs and Climate Change**

Labour strongly supports implementation of the Kyoto accord. This will require major support for job creating new investments in renewable energy, more efficient industrial processes and conservation, as well as a Just Transition plan for any displaced workers.

We look forward to working with you toward these important objectives.

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