

# WHAT WE STAND TO LOSE

A message from the Toronto Retirees Network

Contact us at [www.labourcouncil.ca/retirees.html](http://www.labourcouncil.ca/retirees.html)

## Harper and Hudak are promoting changes to labour law and retirement rights that would drive down wages and pensions and harm Canadian society

Ontario Conservative leader Tim Hudak has announced that he will weaken unions by making major changes to labour laws - if he wins the next Ontario election.

Prime Minister Harper has already pushed through Bill 377. This legislation was designed to disrupt unions by requiring extraordinary financial reporting. Harper may soon try to silence labour's progressive political voice. He already changed OAS entitlements by raising the minimum age to 67.

### Hudak has announced the details of his labour law changes

- ▶ *Under Hudak's scheme, workers could stop paying union dues and/or opt out of union membership – even though they are serviced by a union and benefit from the collective agreement!*
- ▶ *Employers would be able to opt out of collecting union dues from pay cheques. Deducting dues costs employers almost nothing. For unions however, collecting union dues would be time-consuming and very costly.*

Unions would be seriously weakened by Hudak's policies. It would be much harder to defend members' wages and benefits.

### Hudak's labour laws would create "free riders"

Employers would encourage workers to stop paying dues and quit the union.

Imagine the impact of Hudak's "free rider" laws:

- ▶ *What would happen to our bargaining power?*
- ▶ *What would happen to your pension and benefits?*
- ▶ *What would happen to the ability of unions to protect pensions?*
- ▶ *What would life be like in a workplace split between dues-paying members and "free riders"?*

## Conservative labour laws – bad news for our communities, bad news for all working people

The wages of both union and non-union workers would decline if unions are weakened. It would be harder for unions to turn poverty jobs into good jobs.

Public health care, public education and other public services would be at greater risk. The Conservatives want to shut down labour's defence of public services.

The austerity agenda would accelerate – making the 99% pay for the excesses of the 1%. Silencing unions would create an even greater imbalance of wealth and power in society.

The cause of social justice would be set back. The Conservatives have already cut funding to women's and environmental organizations. A blow to the labour movement would hurt the cause of all people fighting for equality.

### Here's what you can do to defeat the Harper/Hudak anti-worker labour laws

- ▶ **Circulate this “Alert”** to co-workers and talk about the impact on your collective agreement and community.
- ▶ **Visit [www.labourcouncil.ca](http://www.labourcouncil.ca)** and your union's website for campaign materials and campaign actions.
- ▶ **Never** vote for a politician who promotes anti-worker policies.



***We fought the fights. We won the rights. That's our legacy.***

***Join us in this historic struggle.***

## The Conservatives' goal is a low wage economy

The Conservatives claim that they are on the side of workers. *Not true!* They have repeatedly supported employers cutting pensions and wages.

- ▶ *What future does the next generation have in a low wage economy?*
- ▶ *What would happen to our communities – especially those already struggling to find hope?*

## Conservative labour laws are anti-democratic

Harper and Hudak are trying to cut off labour funding for community issues and political campaigns. They claim that they are motivated by concern for the rights of union members. *Not true!*

- ▶ *Would Harper and Hudak would be trying to silence the labour movement if it went along with Conservative policies?*