

Trans Pacific Partnership Trade Deal

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Canadian Labour Congress
Congrès du travail du Canada

Background

- Two programs for migrant workers to enter Canada:
 - Temporary Foreign Workers Program
 - International Mobility Program
 - Includes free trade deals



TPP Background

- 12 countries: Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, Vietnam, USA
- Negotiations concluded October 2015
- Canadian government signed February 2016
- Two year ratification period
- Must be ratified by at least half the TPP countries representing 85% of the trade zone's economy (GDP)



A bad deal for Canada

- We support fair trade deals
- But TPP is a bad deal for Canada:
 - Bad for jobs
 - Bad for health
 - Bad for democracy
 - Bad for skilled trades



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Chapter 12 includes skilled trades workers

- First time a major trade deal includes skilled trades workers
- Chapter 12 Category D: “Professions and Technicians”
- Can be used by Canadian and foreign corporations
- Construction and manufacturing sectors etc.



Chapter 12 includes skilled trades workers

- Canada has Chapter 12 Annexes with 7 of the 12 TPP countries:
 - Australia
 - Brunei
 - Chile
 - Japan
 - Malaysia
 - Mexico
 - Peru
- The U.S did not sign a Chapter 12 Annex with anyone



Chapter 12 includes skilled trades workers

- Electricians, plumbers, heavy construction equipment crews, pipefitting trades, metal forming, carpentry trades, mechanic trades, machinists, industrial instrument technicians and mechanics, mining and quarrying, mineral and metal processing, forest products processing, installers and repairers ...



Major problems with Chapter 12

- No requirement to hire Canadians first
- No Labour Market Impact Assessment
- No certification tests allowed as a condition of entry
- Can't impose any limit on how many workers enter Canada
- No way to ensure workers paid prevailing wage rate
- No expectation to speak English or French



Other major problems

- No consultations or evidence
- Weak enforcement since 2014 reforms:
 - Only 78 inspections out of hundreds of thousands of entries
 - All administrative inspections
 - Zero on-site inspections
 - CIC sends the employer a letter to “advise that an inspection will take place”
- Short term construction projects ... workers move on and off job sites
- “Talk to provincial regulator” e.g. stainless steel welder, language etc.
- Precedent for future trade deals
- We can’t change trade deals



Already know what will happen

- Employer abuse:
 - Conifex Power Plant – O&S Contractors vs. IUOE
 - Royal Bank
 - Flags of convenience e.g. Norwegian Air



Canadian government should reject the TPP

- Federal election 2015
- Meetings between labour leadership and Minister
- Meetings with the Canadian negotiating team and officials
- Appeared before Parliamentary Committees
- Business critics
- Lobby day on Parliament Hill
- Materials including new video
- U.S presidential election; “lame duck” period starts in November

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