

A Threat to Retirement Security



The recent global economic crisis has had a direct, negative impact on Canadians. Many have seen their retirement savings and pension security diminished or lost forever. RRSPs and private pensions that have invested heavily in stock and financial markets have been hit hard.

At this time of universal vulnerability, corporate interests and right-wing 'think-tanks' such as the C.D. Howe Institute and the Canadian Federation of Independent Business have been lobbying the Harper government to further attack surviving pension plans in order to cut the deficit.

Their favoured targets are the pension plans of public-sector workers. Their attacks have been packaged with misinformation that ignores the real issue – the need to expand public pensions and reduce our reliance on financial markets for economic security.

The pension plans of public-sector workers are a convenient target because these defined benefit plans have shown that they are better able to withstand economic turn downs and recessions. Ironically, the groups that champion corporate interests above worker's welfare have themselves benefited from tax cuts and government bailouts. They continue to give obscene bonuses to CEOs during a recession that has seen millions of workers lose their jobs *and* their pensions.

Public-sector workers must not allow themselves to become scapegoats for corporate and government forces that wish to push everyone's welfare down to the lowest common denominator. Instead, we must protect pension plans that actually work, and improve retirement security for all.

The Yukon Employees' Union is working with other labour organizations across Canada to resist the assault on our benefit plans, and to improve the retirement security of all Canadians. But we need your help.

Background information and a list of things you can do to protect yourself and your co-workers are now posted on the YEU website: www.yeu.ca. Copies of a petition to Prime Minister Stephen Harper on Retirement Security are circulating, and can be signed at the upcoming Town Hall Meeting. We urge you to sign the petition, and raise your voice before our retirement security is destroyed.

TOWN HALL MEETING

Hear from PSAC National President **John Gordon**
Wednesday, February 24, 7:00 p.m.
Gold Rush Inn – Town Hall Room

Learn about this important issue, and sign the petition to Prime Minister Harper.

