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Date: September 10, 2009

To: All CUPE Ontario locals

RE: "Say Bye to Buy Local" - Provincial Trade Tour

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Canadian trade officials are working to establish a comprehensive set of international, inter-provincial and territorial agreements concerning trade, investment and labour mobility.

The flagship of this enterprise is the Agreement on Internal Trade 1995 ("AIT") which is now being expanded, and has recently spawned bi-lateral trade agreements between some provinces. Our particular concern is with a proposed "Economic Partnership Agreement" between Ontario and Quebec that is currently being negotiated in secret.

The true purpose of this domestic 'trade' agenda is to impose broad constraints on the exercise of governmental and public authority under the rubric of addressing trade barriers. A domestic trade agreement is like a corporate bill of rights that strips away the abilities of local communities to engage in democratic decision-making.

The impact of these domestic trade initiatives will be broad and often incompatible with other societal goals, from stimulating local economies and maintaining a universal and publicly funded health care system, to protecting the environment. Yet this internal trade agenda is proceeding with very little transparency and virtually no public debate.

At its core, this is an agenda to promote further privatization and deregulation, precisely the policies that have been ruinous for domestic and global economies, and also have frustrated efforts to deal with the pressing environmental challenges of our time.

CUPE Ontario is thrilled to be teaming up with Maude Barlow and the Council of Canadians to sponsor a 7 community tour this fall highlighting the concerns and educating our members and the general public on the negative impacts these interprovincial Trade deals will have on our communities and services.

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Patrick (Sid) Ryan
President

ONE STRONG VOICE

Fred Hahn
Secretary-Treasurer

The tour is scheduled for the following dates and locations:

October 13 th	Ottawa
October 19 th	Kitchener
October 20 th	Toronto
October 26 th	Sudbury
October 27 th	Windsor
November 17 th	Kingston
November 18 th	London
November 19 th	Hamilton

Further information on times and venues will be sent out in the near future.

This agenda of secret trade deals is at the heart of our fight against privatization. In order for it to be a success, we need the support of leaders like you.

Please mark the date in your calendars and plan to attend. Also encourage your members to attend: we need to work together to raise community awareness of the consequences of trade deals and build coalitions to oppose them at the local and provincial levels. Posters advertising the tour will be coming to your communities shortly.

A CUPE member in each of the communities will be booked off to support the organizing efforts and will be in touch with all of the locals to discuss how you can get involved in this campaign.

In solidarity,



Patrick (Sid) Ryan
President

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