



Latin American Trade Unionists Coalition
Unidad · Lucha · Resistencia

**FIRST DECLARATION OF THE LATIN AMERICAN TRADE
UNIONISTS COALITION OF CANADA-LATUC-May 29, 2008**

On September 11, 12 and 13, 2009, the first ever conference of Latin American trade unionists across Canada will be held in Toronto, Canada.

LATUC (the Latin American Trade Unionist Coalition of Canada) is a newly formed Coalition of Canadian union members of Latin American heritage. It is an active network of men and women workers that self-identify as Latin American from across the Canadian labour movement spectrum. LATUC includes members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), International Association of Machinists (IAM), United Steelworkers (USW), United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW Canada), Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW), Ontario Public Service Union Employees (OPSEU) and other public and private sector unions. It seeks to strengthen the voice of Canadian Latin American workers within the Canadian labour movement.

Our main goals are:

- A) The creation of the organization that will represent all Latin American trade unionists in Canada.
- B) To achieve recognition within the labour movement in Canada.
- C) Achieve more representation and have a voice within the organized labour.
- D) Promote solidarity and provide support for workers without a legal status, including guest workers, domestic and migrant workers and promote class solidarity between worker to worker and union to union in Canada and internationally.

In addition, we would like to play an active role in the different activities of the working class in Canada, unionized and non-unionized.

We are fully aware of the multiple challenges that our communities face, in particular those of us without legal status, temporary, migrant and agricultural workers, as well as the domestic workers. In the political arena, we are ignored by the political parties and political institutions because statistically we are 'not an important voting population'. As Latin Americans we need to build a credible political alternative to represent us and our collective aspirations and dreams.

We also stand for principles such as creating a democratic space to exchange information, ideas, experiences and proposals in order to achieve our goals. We strive to gain respect for our diversity, the right to self identification, ethnic origin, gender orientation, creed, and our political views. We strongly believe that a worker is a worker and is a worker, whether he or she is unionized or non-unionized, employed or unemployed.

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