



A CUPW delegation with Venezuelan postal union representatives



CUPW International Solidarity in Action

- Exchanges with postal unions and other labour organizations in various countries including Brazil, Cuba, Mexico, Iran, Haiti, U.S., U.K., France, Belgium and countries in Africa;
- Lobbying and protesting around international trade agreements and privatization and deregulation of postal services;
- Working within the Canadian Labour Congress and Union Network International, our global union, on international projects;
- Carrying out a long-term project with Colombian public sector unions called “Defending Public Services: Canadian and Colombian Workers on the Front Lines” in collaboration with CUPE and PSAC;
- Participating in events like the World Social Forum that bring together diverse organizations and people under the theme “Another World is Possible”;
- Working in a coalition resisting the “war on terror” and its attack on human rights;
- Taking part in the international peace movement and labour opposition to the war in Iraq and Afghanistan.



cupw international solidarity



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No one can seriously contend, in the early days of the 21st century, that unions can truly thrive without integrating their struggles with those of workers throughout the globe. This is particularly clear for workers in public services such as the post office.

CUPW National Executive Board Policy Paper on International Solidarity Work and the International Postal Fund

cupw sttp

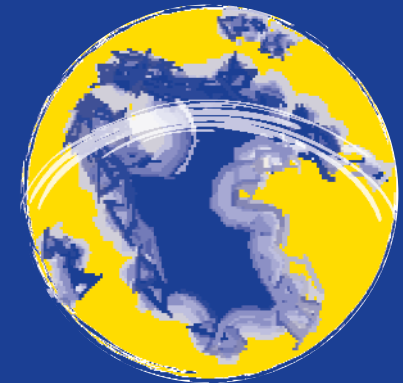
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Brazilian postal worker trying on mail carrying satchel at an Ottawa letter carrier station



Fighting "Globalization" Together

While there is no one definition of "globalization", many trade unionists use this word to describe a global business agenda that favours corporations over citizens, the North over the South and the wealthy over the poor. Neo-liberal globalization has allowed transnational corporations to invest in communities throughout the world at the expense of public services, social programs, human rights and workers' rights.

The pressure to privatize public services in North America comes from the same model of globalization as in Guatemala, Colombia and the global South.



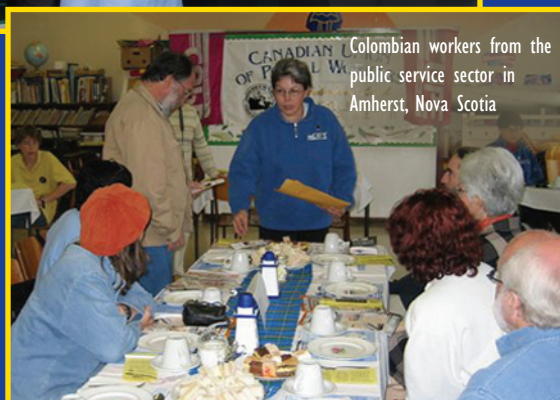
CUPW members protesting against the war in Iraq



Supporting Workers in Global Struggles

The Canadian Union of Postal Workers has made a commitment to the struggles of workers across the globe.

We cannot defend the rights of postal workers and strengthen public postal service alone. Our struggle is entwined with support for workers in both developed and developing countries. Globalization links us all in the struggle for workers rights worldwide.



Colombian workers from the public service sector in Amherst, Nova Scotia



Funding Solidarity

CUPW's international solidarity activities are funded in part by the International Postal Fund, which was negotiated in the urban operations collective agreement in 2000. Canada Post is required to deposit \$200,000 a year into this union-controlled fund.



Locals Acting in Solidarity

The path to global equality often begins at home. Awareness campaigns and fundraising activities begin in our communities. Members and locals are encouraged to participate in and organize international solidarity activities locally.

The opportunity to participate in international work is also open to local projects through CUPW's International Solidarity Fund. Locals and regions can also get assistance from the fund to participate in or organize solidarity activities.



Objectives of Solidarity Activities

- Strengthening postal unions and labour organizations internationally;
- Strengthening CUPW through our interaction with workers worldwide;
- Supporting international solidarity work in regions and locals.