

POLICY 5 – Political Policy

- 5.01** The TWU-STT will go on record as opposing the cutbacks to the unemployment insurance system, and the Union continue to press the Federal government to adopt a full employment policy.
- 5.02** The TWU-STT will do all in its power to protect the rights of collective bargaining for all public sector unions, including the right to strike, and support labour movement campaigns against legislation which attempts to replace collective bargaining with “formula” bargaining.
- 5.03** The TWU-STT will continue to support the postal workers in their struggle to retain their legal right to strike.
- 5.04** The TWU-STT will fight for the preservation of Medicare.
- 5.05** The TWU-STT will do all in its power to fight so-called “right-to-work” legislation should such legislation ever be introduced federally or provincially. (Re-affirmed June 1983)
- 5.06** The TWU-STT will continue to inform its membership about the effects of all new legislation which will affect the rights or welfare of our members, and that the TWU-STT continue to publicly voice its opposition to any such legislation which is clearly detrimental to the interests of this Union or the labour movement at large.
- 5.07** The TWU-STT will commit itself to involving the membership and the Union as a whole in election campaigns on the side of those candidates and those parties which support the interests of our members and the interests of the labour movement as a whole. The Executive Board may, upon request or at its discretion, make campaign contributions up to one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) to TWU-STT members seeking public office.
- 5.08** We inform all levels of government of our concerns through increased communications with politicians.
- 5.09** The TWU-STT will maintain constant vigilance and pressure on the C.R.T.C to ensure the best quality of telecommunications service for the people of Canada.
- 5.10** The TWU-STT will continue to endorse the Political Action Program in the strongest possible way.
- 5.11** The Political Action Committee will continue its present structure, that it continue to meet regularly, and that it pursue an active Political Education Program during the coming year.
- 5.12** The TWU-STT will establish a full-time position for a resource person, whose task shall include co-ordination of the TWU-STT Political Education Program as a first priority.
- 5.13** The TWU-STT will press for the revision and consolidation of minimum labour standard laws by provincial governments, and demand that farm workers and domestic workers be included under such standards.
- 5.14** The TWU-STT will demand the government continue to increase the minimum wage immediately.
- 5.15** The TWU-STT will make major priority in lobbying and organizing political pressure to urge the federal government to make major changes to the Canada Labour Code and Canada Labour Relations Board to ensure (i) that the Board shall have labour representatives on its panels, and (ii) that the Board will follow fair and consistent labour relations policy in the determination of “appropriate bargaining units”, and (iii) that decisions such as the “Section 119” C.L.R.B decision of August 1979, which made no decision on an “appropriate unit” for the TWU-STT, can be overturned.

- 5.16** The Political Action Committee will do everything in its power to call for government investigation and public hearings into the social, economic service and employment effects of technological developments being undertaken by TELUS and other communications companies in Canada.
- 5.17** The TWU-STT will call on the federal government to make drastic changes to the C.R.T.C. to ensure (i) that the C.R.T.C. no longer shall rely on company developed data, surveys, and (ii) that the C.R.T.C. encourage union and public input to investigate TELUS or other phone companies, and (iii) that the C.R.T.C. be mandated and look beyond the narrow aspects of “rate of return” and investigate local community impact, employment, and true quality of service effects of proposals for technology, network changes or rate increases by the phone companies.
- 5.18** The TWU-STT will do everything in its power to involve all parts of the labour movement, particularly the Provincial Federations of Labour to take up technological change as an urgent labour movement concern.
- 5.19** The TWU-STT will endorse the New Democratic Party and the BLOC Quebecois, on the basis that they are the only parties whose principles and record are worthy of Labour’s support, while these parties continue to support TWU-STT members and their best interests.
- 5.20** The TWU-STT will support Labour Council-endorsed Municipal candidates or organizations which clearly represent the needs of working people and the positions of organized labour.
- 5.21** The TWU-STT will go on record demanding the immediate repeal of Bill 54, the Municipal Amendment Act 1980.
- 5.22** Tracts of land will be made available for co-op housing development.
- 5.23** The TWU-STT will go on record opposing any separate form of billing of patients and that doctors be obliged to negotiate their contracts with the provincial government, the same as any other union does.
- 5.24** The TWU-STT will support the B.C. Organization to Fight Racism (B.C.O.F.R.) in their efforts to eliminate racism.
- 5.25** The TWU-STT will denounce all attempts by government or employers to make working people the scapegoats of economic mismanagement, and that the TWU-STT call on Provincial Federations of Labour and the Canadian Labour Congress to conduct the needed public meetings to fight and expose such scapegoating.
- 5.26** The Political Action Committee will conduct a semi-annual seminar on an annual basis.
- 5.27** The Political Action Committee will be authorized the necessary funds to prepare and distribute a regular bulletin, and that a maximum of two members of the Political Action Committee be given one day of Union-paid time to prepare each bulletin.
- 5.28** The TWU-STT will oppose the proposed free trade agreement.
- 5.29** The TWU-STT will, through Provincial Federations of Labour and the Canadian Labour Congress, exert continued pressure on the Federal government to pass Federal Anti-Scab Legislation.
- 5.30** (a) The Political Action Committee will make its priority the formulation of political policy for the TWU-STT and the education of the members of the TWU-STT on the impact of government policy on them: and

- (b) The Political Action Committee will encourage members to become active in community, provincial and federal issues on an ongoing basis.

5.31 The TWU-STT will do everything in its power to lobby all levels of government to put a stop to the outsourcing of our member's work and jobs leaving Canada.

Recommendations for Future Use of the Fund

5.32 The TWU-STT will release members to work on federal and provincial election campaigns, providing releases meet the requirements of applicable legislation and the following guidelines:

- (a) The TWU-STT will only accept one list of names submitted by the CLC. The first list will be the last list.
- (b) Only members in good standing will be considered for release. Members will be expected to contribute some of their own time to the campaign.
- (c) Members must take the Union time off during the campaign they are working on.
- (d) There is no limit to be placed on the numbers of people who can be released, as long as there is money in the Fund to pay for it. The TWU-STT will expect the party to limit releases to key ridings and only one person per riding.
- (e) The Union may wish to release individuals to work on a specific candidate's campaign who the Union feels has/will work(ed) on behalf of the Union to the members' best interest.

5.33 A donation will be made to the central campaign if requested by either the Canadian Labour Congress or Provincial Federations of Labour.

5.34 Distribution of political information to the worksite for bulletin boards and to individual members.

- (a) The Political Action Committee will meet at the first available opportunity in the election window to select/edit material that is judged to be of best use to focus the membership on the issues of the campaign.
- (b) The Committee will attempt to use the message that has been developed by the Canadian Labour Congress and Provincial Federations of Labour.

5.35 Members in good standing who run and get nominated as candidates for the NDP provincially may be released on Union Time for the duration of the campaign.

5.36 The Local Union will fund the purchase of tickets to attend fund-raising dinners or other functions that Executive Board considers will be of advantage to the membership.

- (a) The cost of these donations is to be limited to \$3,000.00 per annum from the fund.
- (b) The tickets will be made available to the Executive Board members and TWU-STT activists within the NDP on a first come, first served basis. Notification of availability will be made through the TWU-STT Hotline as soon as possible.
- (c) Wherever possible, attendance at these fund-raising activities will give first priority to Union establishments.

5.37 The Local Union will help fund TWU-STT members in good standing per Political Policy No. 6.20:

The TWU-STT will support Labour Council-endorsed Municipal candidates or organizations which clearly represent the needs of working people and the positions of organized labour.

- (a) Members will be expected to have the endorsement of their Unit and have their application in to the Executive Board (c/o the Political Action Officer) at least one Executive Board date prior to their election date.
- (b) Members who qualify for a donation will be expected to provide a copy of a campaign expense budget and only ask for a donation if required.
- (c) The amount of the donations paid will be on the recommendation of the Political Action Officer and with the concurrence of the Executive Board. The total cost of all these donations is not to exceed \$5,000.00 per annum and is to come from the Fund.

5.38 The Local Union will not fund individuals to attend political conventions.

5.39 The Local Union will continue to assist other recognized unions in election campaigns in which they may be involved, i.e. federal, provincial or municipal. This has to be at no cost to our members while maintaining security over the membership list.

5.40 The TWU-STT will fund campaigns of municipal politicians who have indicated a long-time track record for support on issues facing our members. Donations are to be limited to \$100.00 per individual and \$5,000.00 per annum.

5.41 A donation may be made to a central municipal campaign if requested by either the Canadian Labour Congress or a Provincial Federation of Labour. This donation is not to exceed \$5,000.00.

Note: Final approval for all requests for moneys and assistance rests with the Executive Board subject to appeal to Convention.