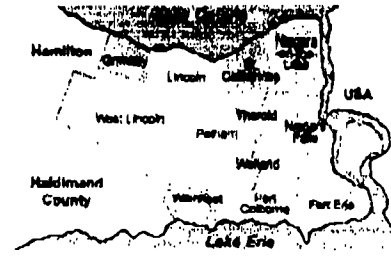




**Niagara Regional
Labour Council**
Chartered by the
Canadian Labour Congress



February 3, 2012

Office of the Regional Clerk
Niagara Region
2201 St. David's Road, P.O. Box 1042
Thorold, Ontario L2V 4T7

CSC 11-2012

The Niagara Regional Labour Council (NRLC) represents thousands of unionized workers across Niagara. Operating under the umbrella of the Canadian Labour Congress, the NRLC promotes social justice, human rights, fair labour laws, safe workplaces, and is an advocate for issues affecting all workers across Niagara.

We have prepared a resolution and are reaching out to the Regional Municipality of Niagara for your support and endorsement. The resolution deals with the Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement (CETA) which is currently being negotiated by the Canadian Federal Government and the European Union (EU). You may ask what this has to do with Regional Council, we believe there are several items in the trade agreement which will directly affect local communities, their policies and the work we perform.

We believe that CETA, as it is currently contemplated, would negatively restrict the ability of the Regional Municipality of Niagara, its Area Municipalities, and other public institutions within Niagara to make the procurement decisions necessary to revive the manufacturing economy in Niagara.

We would ask to have an opportunity present our resolution to Council at the next meeting and would be glad to answer any questions or concerns you may have at that time.

I have attached a copy of our resolution for your review. Thank you in advance for this opportunity to bring this extremely important issue before you on behalf of the workers in the Niagara Region.

Respectfully,

Heather Kelley, VP

Niagara Regional Labour Council

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Niagara Region Labour Council**Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS the government of Canada and the European Union have been negotiating a trade agreement known as the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA); and

WHEREAS the European Union and EU-based corporations are insisting on unobstructed access to procurement by subnational governments – including municipalities, school boards, universities, hospitals and other provincial agencies – which could significantly reduce or eliminate the right to specify local priorities when public money is invested in goods, services or capital projects; and

WHEREAS Canadian municipalities have expressed growing concerns with trade agreements and their potential impacts on municipal programs and services and local autonomy; and

WHEREAS unobstructed access to Canadian municipal procurement by both EU and Canadian corporations, combined with investment protections in CETA on government concessions related to transit, water, electricity and other social services delivered locally may encourage privatization and reduce economic development options for local communities; and

WHEREAS the provincial and territorial governments have been actively involved in negotiating CETA with the European Union;

Niagara Region Labour Council

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Regional Municipality of Niagara request:

- That Ontario issue a clear, permanent exemption for the Regional Municipality of Niagara from the Canada-EU CETA, and it otherwise protect the powers of municipalities, hospitals, school boards, utilities, universities and other sub-federal agencies to use public procurement, services and investment as tools to create local jobs, protect the environment, and support local development; and that
- That Ontario disclose its initial procurement, services and investment offers to the EU, explain the impacts CETA would have on municipal governance and give M.U.S.H. sector entities (Municipalities, Universities/Colleges, School Authorities, and Hospital Authorities) the freedom to decide whether or not they will be bound by the procurement, investment and regulatory rules in the agreement; and that
- This resolution be sent to the Ontario Municipal Association and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the Ontario Hospital Association, the Ontario University Association and the Ontario School Board Association and any other relevant bodies for consideration and circulation,