



March 17, 2011

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To: Ranking Officers of Affiliated Organizations  
Presidents Provincial and Territorial Federations of Labour  
Presidents of District Labour Councils

Re: Earthquake in Japan

I am sure that you are as affected as those of us at the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) by the earthquake last week off the coast of Japan, and the enormous loss of life, as well as the ongoing concerns around the nuclear reactors. We forwarded our condolences and expression of sympathy on behalf of Canadian workers to the Japanese Ambassador to Canada.

We have been in contact with the CLC's counterpart in Japan, the Japanese Trade Union Confederation (JTUC-RENGO) both to offer condolences and to see what we can do to help.

The President of RENGO, Nobuaki Koga, has written back to advise us that their headquarters has set up a Disaster Relief Task Force to launch their own fundraising campaign. They are planning to send volunteers consisting of union members, as well as needed goods to the afflicted areas to support victimized people.

He wrote, "We are facing an unprecedented devastating situation and I am afraid that it would take a very long time for recovering. The damage in the affected areas is not clear and we are still collecting information. The situation is very critical but we are determined to make a united effort to cope with this difficult time."

The CLC is setting up a fund to collect money to forward to the RENGO Disaster Relief Fund and is seeking contributions from our affiliates. If you wish to contribute to the Japanese trade union movement in their efforts in this disaster and to help in the recovery, please make cheques payable to: Canadian Labour Congress and indicate that it is for the Japanese RENGO Disaster Relief Fund.

We appreciate any help you can give. I too believe that with the extent of the destruction, the recovery efforts will take many years. RENGO has been a good friend to the CLC and Canadian workers and we are committed to assisting them in their recovery work.

In solidarity,

Ken Georgetti  
President

cc: CLC Officers and Staff  
KVG:sjf/cope /JapanEarthquakeAppeal2011-03-17-EN

