

POLITICAL POLICY

1. That the TWU 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. (January 1996)
2. That the TWU 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. (January 1996)
3. That the TWU continue to support the postal workers in their struggle to retain their legal right to strike. (January 1982)
4. That the TWU fight for the preservation of Medicare.
5. That the TWU 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)
6. That the TWU 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 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. (January 1983)
7. That the TWU 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 Council may, upon request or at its discretion, make campaign contributions up to one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) to TWU members seeking public office. (January 1982).
8. We inform all levels of government of our concerns through increased communications with politicians. (January 2001)
9. That the TWU maintain constant vigilance and pressure on the C.R.T.C. to ensure the best quality of telecommunications service for the people of Canada. (January 2001)
10. That the TWU continue to endorse the Political Action Program in the strongest possible way.
11. That the TWU Political Action Committee continue with its present structure, that it continue to meet regularly, and that it pursue an active Political Education Program during the coming year.
12. That the TWU establish a full-time position for a resource person, whose task shall include co-ordination of the TWU Political Education Program as a first priority.



13. That the TWU 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. (January 2001)
14. That the TWU demand the government continue to increase the minimum wage immediately. (January 1996)
15. That the TWU make a 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, can be overturned. (January 1982)
16. That the Committee 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. (January 2001)
17. That the TWU 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. (January 2001)
18. That the TWU 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. (January 2001)
19. That the TWU endorse the New Democratic Party, on the basis that it is the only party whose principles and record are worthy of Labour’s support, while that party continues to support TWU members and their best interests. (January 1998)
20. That the TWU support Labour Council-endorsed Municipal candidates or organizations which clearly represent the needs of working people and the positions of organized labour. (January 1987)
21. That the TWU go on record demanding the immediate repeal of Bill 54, the Municipal Amendment Act 1980. (January 1987)
22. That tracts of land be made available for co-op housing development. (January 2001)
23. That the TWU 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. (January 1983)
24. That the TWU support the B.C. Organization to Fight Racism (B.C.O.F.R.) in their efforts to eliminate racism. (January 1987)

25. That the TWU denounce all attempts by government or employers to make working people the scapegoats of economic mismanagement, and that the TWU call on Provincial Federations of Labour and the Canadian Labour Congress to conduct the needed public meetings to fight and expose such scapegoating. (January 2001)
26. That the TWU Political Action Committee conduct a semi-annual seminar on an annual basis. (January 1996)
27. That the Political Action Committee 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. (January 1996)
28. That the TWU oppose the proposed free trade agreement. (January 1996)
29. That the TWU through Provincial Federations of Labour and the Canadian Labour Congress exert continued pressure on the Federal government to pass Federal Anti-Scab Legislation. (January 2001)
31. That the Political Action Committee make its priority the formulation of political policy for the TWU and the education of the members of the TWU on the impact of government policy on them:
and

That the Political Action Committee encourage members to become active in community, provincial and federal issues on an ongoing basis.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE USE OF THE FUND (January 1998)

1. The TWU 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 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. (January 1999)
 - (c) Members must take the Union time off during the campaign they are working on. (March 2003)
 - (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 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.



2. A donation will be made to the central campaign if requested by either the Canadian Labour Congress or Provincial Federations of Labour.
3. Distribution of political information to the worksite for bulletin boards and to individual members.
 - (a) The TWU 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. (January 2001)
4. 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. (March 2003)
5. The Union will fund the purchase of tickets to attend fund-raising dinners or other functions that Executive Council considers will be of advantage to the membership.
 - (a) The cost of these donations is to be limited to \$1,000.00 per annum from the Fund.
 - (b) The tickets will be made available to Executive Council members and TWU activists within the NDP on a first come, first served basis. Notification of availability will be made through the TWU Hotline as soon as possible.
 - (c) Wherever possible, attendance at these fund-raising activities will give first priority to Union establishments.
6. The Union will help fund TWU members in good standing per Political Policy No. 20:

That the TWU support Labour Council-endorsed Municipal candidates or organizations which clearly represent the needs of working people and the positions of organized labour. (January 1987)

 - (a) Members will be expected to have the endorsement of their Local and have their application in to Executive Council (c/o the Political Action Officer) at least one Executive Council 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 Executive Council. The total cost of all these donations is not to exceed \$5,000.00 per annum and is to come from the Fund. (August 2002)
7. The Union will not fund individuals to attend political conventions.



8. The 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.
 9. The TWU 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. (August 2002)
 10. 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. (August 2002)
- N.B. Final approval for all requests for moneys and assistance rests with Executive Council subject to appeal to Convention.

(Revised March 3, 2005)