



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
January 27, 2009

**Labour Deeply Disappointed by Budget**

**“Prime Minister Harper abandons 600,000 unemployed Canadian workers”**

“Stephen Harper has missed the mark with this budget.” says Alex Furlong, President of the Yukon Federation of Labour. Finance Minister Flaherty today tabled a budget which doesn’t come close to addressing the concerns of the country. They have failed to offer the stimulus needed to help working class Canadians struggling with job loss, a credit crunch, and an economy in free fall.

While the budget increases the duration of EI benefits, over 600,000 Canadians who have paid into this fund do not qualify to receive benefits. The Conservative Government has committed the largest fraud in Canadian history; re-directing \$54 billion of EI surplus funds to the General Revenue account. Harper has made it clear that those funds will not be returned to Canadian taxpayers in the form of EI benefits. “Canadians who have lost their jobs needed government to help by removing the 2 week qualifying period and changing the eligibility criteria; workers need improved access to benefits” Furlong adds.

Municipalities will be forced to bear a heavy burden to implement much of the infrastructure work provided for in this budget. Local and provincial governments will be expected to inject 1/3 the cost of infrastructure projects in order to stimulate local economies. “No shovel ready projects can begin with only 2/3 of a shovel” says Furlong, “and today’s budget offers municipalities only 2/3 of a shovel”.

For more information:

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