



## Recognition for International Women's Day March 8, 2010

To: District/Bargaining Unit Presidents

From: Ken Coran, President

### For Action

The theme chosen by the United Nations for International Women's Day (IWD) 2010 is *Equal Rights, Equal Opportunities: Progress for All*. As these words suggest, achieving equality for women and girls involves not only establishing a strong foundation of legal rights but also the social, economic, political and educational openings that give substance to those rights.

This year will mark the 100th anniversary of IWD and the period leading up to March 8, 2010 offers an important opportunity to celebrate the gains that have been achieved in past decades, as well as draw attention to the continuing issues of women and girls' equality at home and internationally.

At the provincial level, AMPA 2010 provides a specific occasion for OSSTF/FEESO to acknowledge the 100th anniversary of IWD in addition to the article on the history of IWD that appeared in January's *Update*. The Provincial Executive also encourages local district/bargaining unit leaders and Status of Women Committees to highlight this occasion locally to members. In some communities this could involve opportunities to support and join events, rallies or marches sponsored by your Labour Council or women's groups. As well, members may be interested in organizing school-based activities or curriculum initiatives for students.

The following websites are some helpful sources of information on International Women's Day, its history and the struggle for gender equality in Canada and around the world:

- United Nations cyberschoolbus - [www.un.org/cyberschoolbus/womensday/index.asp](http://www.un.org/cyberschoolbus/womensday/index.asp);
- Ontario Women's Directorate: International Women's Day – Resources and Links - [www.citizenship.gov.on.ca/owd/english/resources/information/dates/iwd.shtml](http://www.citizenship.gov.on.ca/owd/english/resources/information/dates/iwd.shtml);
- Canadian Labour Congress - [www.canadianlabour.ca/action-center/womens-economic-equality/fact-sheets](http://www.canadianlabour.ca/action-center/womens-economic-equality/fact-sheets);
- WomenWatch - [www.un.org/womenwatch](http://www.un.org/womenwatch);
- UNIFEM - [www.unifem.org](http://www.unifem.org);
- UNiTE - [www.un.org/en/women/endviolence](http://www.un.org/en/women/endviolence);
- Plan Canada - [www.becauseiamagirl.ca/learn/learn](http://www.becauseiamagirl.ca/learn/learn);  
(see also [www.plan-uk.org/becauseiamagirl/theissues/](http://www.plan-uk.org/becauseiamagirl/theissues/))

