



British Columbia and Yukon Territory Building and Construction Trades Council

#204 - 4333 Ledger Avenue, Burnaby, B.C. V5G 3T3 Telephone: (604) 291-9020 Fax: (604) 291-9590



May 19, 2010

Scott Brison, MP
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Via Fax: 613- 996-9349

Dear Mr. Brison,

I am writing on behalf of over 40,000 rank and file members of the BC Building Trades affiliated unions in response to your comments at the CIIT committee hearings on May 13, 2010, following the presentation by Ms. Barbara Wood, Executive Director of Co-Development Canada. As a result of your statement I have several questions.

With respect to the annual government report that you say will rely on NGOs and input from the civil society community. I take this to mean that the report will review allegations of human rights abuses, assassinations and population displacement after the apparent incident has taken place.

The question is what good is a Canadian government report to the trade union leaders, union shop stewards, rank and file members and journalists who will continue to perish as targets of assassinations? What use will the report be for the displaced civilians whose momentary survival depends on their ability to flee?

In the debate about what constitutes fact I am struck that comments by the Colombian Minister of Trade are so easily accepted as fact. The Minister claims that trade unionism is on the rise in Colombia. But the Colombian Trade Minister's claim that union rates have increased by 76% is simply not correct. Credible sources from the Colombian labour movement assert that union labour market share has decreased by 4.7%.

The Colombian government does not keep labour census and union market share records. Given the lack of statistical information, data we take for granted in Canada, why should any credence be given to the Colombian Minister's assertion of fact?

Finally, I understand that the Standing Committee process is an opportunity for Canadians to interact and dialogue with elected representatives. The Hearing process is not a court. Ms. Wood's presentation was civil and straight forward. Why did you refuse to provide Ms. Wood with an opportunity to respond to your reaction to her presentation?

Thank you for taking the time to receive these questions. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



WAYNE PEPPARD
Executive Director

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Copy: Hedy Fry, MP Vancouver Centre
Keith Martin, MP Esquimalt-Juan de Fuca
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Ujjal Dosanjh, MP Vancouver South
Joyce Murray, MP Vancouver Quadra
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