



January 22, 2009

The Honourable Tony Clement
Minister of Industry
C.D. Howe Building
235 Queen Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0H5

Dear Minister:

I read with deep dismay your comments this week that auto workers must sacrifice wages in order for the North American auto makers to access federal support funds.

I am disappointed that this government seems unable to set aside ideology for the good of the nation and is trying to demonize workers who have the audacity to earn a decent living wage on which to raise a family, send their children to university or college and save for a dignified retirement. You speak as if earning a decent living wage caused the economic mess we find ourselves today.

There were no strings attached to the bank bailout money offered by your government in terms of executive compensation, no public statements about the bloated salaries of their CEOs and senior managers, not even a requirement for them to lower interest rates on consumer loans or mortgage rates. Despite federal funds pledged to backstop bad loans, Canada's banks are not reducing consumer loan and mortgage rates in line with Bank of Canada rate cuts in an attempt to maintain their still healthy profits.

Your government had no strings attached to the Asset Backed Commercial Paper (ABCP) bailout – our home-grown sub-prime mortgage fiasco. No one who sold these instruments as safe investments has yet to be prosecuted. Yet, taxpayers are on the hook.

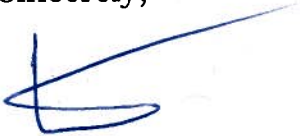
Your government is not calling for reductions in the bloated CEO salaries and benefit compensation packages of the country's corporate elite. Canada's best paid 100 CEOs received a record 22% average pay hike in 2007. Yet, the vast majority of workers in the last 25 years of so-called prosperity have seen their wages stagnate in real terms.

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So you can imagine my dismay, that despite this government's failure to make those who created this economic mess pay for, or even account for their mistakes, you have instead rewarded the risks they took with unconditional support. Now you have turned to blaming workers and their unions for negotiating decent living wages for their members. Shame on you, sir.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'K. Georgetti', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Kenneth V. Georgetti
President

cc: CLC Officers and Assistants
CLC Executive Committee