



Press Release

Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union of Canada

CEP Members Unite to Find Solutions

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VANCOUVER – CEP members from Western Canada met in Vancouver late last week to determine what can be done to address the ever-increasing crisis in the Pulp and Paper industry in Canada.

“The announcement this week by West Fraser to permanently close the Eurocan mill in Kitimat is shocking, but not a complete surprise,” states CEP Vice President Jim Britton. “We know this industry is in deep trouble, we have known it for years. This week’s announcement is a further indictment of the failed policies of both the federal and provincial governments as well as proof of the significant lack of investment by the companies.”

“Our members are demanding that the Federal Government convene a national, tri-party meeting to find sustaining solutions to the crisis in our industry.” continues Britton. “We know there are no easy answers and we are not saying that we have all of the answers. But there is one thing that we do know; there are solutions to be found if we can get all the right people in the room talking to one another.”

The union is calling on the Federal Government to convene an emergency summit of Governments, Communities, Forest Companies, First Nations and Unions to take urgent measures to save the forest industry, to support workers and communities and to find long-term solutions to create a new and sustainable forest industry.

“There has been more than 75,000 jobs lost in Canada and more than 226 mills closed,” concludes Britton. “Enough is enough. The current system is broken and we need to find solutions. We need the federal government to convene the meeting and we need the provincial government to help us get one.”

The members of the CEP Pulp Caucus will be working in their local unions and communities to gather support to ensure that this national meeting takes place. This effort begins in British Columbia and will continue across Western Canada over the next few weeks.

CEP represents more than 40,000 forest industry workers from coast to coast including 5,000 pulp and paper workers in BC.

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