



**INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS  
FRATERNITÉ INTERNATIONALE DES OUVRIERS EN ÉLECTRICITÉ**



EDWIN D. HILL  
International President  
Président international



**PHIL FLEMMING**  
International Vice President / Vice-président international  
First District, CANADA / Premier District, CANADA



SALVATORE (SAM) J. CHILIA  
International Secretary/Treasurer  
Secrétaire-trésorier international

November 25, 2011

**TO ALL IBEW FIRST DISTRICT LOCAL UNIONS**

**RE: Expansion of the Canada Pension Plan (CPP)**

Greetings:

With the current pension system, we are at risk of facing a crisis in Canada. Many Canadians do not have enough savings to live with dignity in retirement after a lifetime of working. But we have the opportunity to put it back on track for all working Canadians.

The Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) "Retirement Security for Everyone" campaign is a Canadian solution, for ALL Canadians, regardless of age, sex, race, religion, and whether they are unionized or non-unionized. Over 60 per cent of working Canadians have no workplace pension. More than 33 per cent of all seniors receiving public pensions (Old Age Security & CPP) earn less than \$11,000 per year. CPP offers a cost-effective approach and is not subject to high management fees or the volatility of the stock market. This formula can ensure Canadians can live out their retirement in dignity.

It's time that our politicians hear our voices and concerns regarding our current CPP. It's time to move Canada forward, by putting Canadians first! I am asking you to encourage your members to write to their respective Member of Parliament in support of the CLC's campaign to double CPP benefits. Please find the attached letter for the members to use or they can visit our website.

Please utilize the following helpful websites:

- For the CPP letter to an MP [www.ibew.org/1stdistrict/](http://www.ibew.org/1stdistrict/)
- CLC's detailed report on the CPP [www.canadianlabour.ca/](http://www.canadianlabour.ca/)
- To find your MP [www.parl.gc.ca](http://www.parl.gc.ca)
  - Select language
  - Enter your postal code under the heading "House of Commons"

Best Wishes.

In solidarity,

Phil Flemming  
International Vice President

PF/mw

cc: 1<sup>st</sup> District Representatives  
System Council #11  
CCO

**(DATE)**

**(YOUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENTS NAME), MP**  
**(POSITION HELD EG. MINISTER OF FINANCE)**  
House of Commons, Parliament Building  
Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0A6

Dear **(YOUR MP'S NAME)**,

I am writing to you to explain why I support the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) campaign to double future Canada Pension Plan (CPP) benefits and to ask for your support for this important initiative.

Things have drastically changed for today's working Canadians. It's a different world for Canadians today than it was for my parents' and grandparents' generations, and it will be different again for our children and their generation. Many of today's jobs don't come with benefits or pension plans, and many of the ones that do offer a pension plan have switched from a "defined benefit" to "defined contribution" plan. This provides less security for those entering retirement, they are relying more on government assistance programs and some are living below the poverty line.

Improving the CPP is the best and most cost effective way for me, my kids, and every other working Canadian, to save enough to cover the basics after age sixty-five. The CLC's proposal would slowly phase-in a fully-funded doubling of future CPP retirement benefits over the course of seven years.

I am not asking the government to re-invent the wheel; the system is already in place and we just need to gradually increase our contributions as outlined in the CLC's plan for an improved CPP.

It's what I need, it's what Canadians need, and it's what the next generation of working people across the country need to save enough for retirement. I urge you to continue to work with your provincial counterparts and to urge Finance Minister, Jim Flaherty, and Minister of State for Pensions, Ted Menzies, to make expanding the CPP a priority. Supporting a phased-in, fully-funded increase in CPP contributions today will ensure that our Canadian workers of tomorrow live in dignity and security in retirement.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to your action on this important issue.

Best Wishes.

Sincerely,

**(YOUR NAME)**



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SALVATORE (SAM) J. CHILIA  
International Secretary/Treasurer  
Secrétaire-trésorier international

November 28, 2011

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper, P.C., M.P.  
Prime Minister of Canada  
House of Commons, Parliament Building  
Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0A6

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing to you to explain why I support the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) campaign to double future Canada Pension Plan (CPP) benefits and to ask for your support for this important initiative.

Things have drastically changed for today's working Canadians. It's a different world for Canadians today than it was for my parents' and grandparents' generations, and it will be different again for our children and their generation. Many of today's jobs don't come with benefits or pension plans, and many of the ones that do offer a pension plan have switched from a "defined benefit" to "defined contribution" plan. This provides less security for those entering retirement, they are relying more on government assistance programs and some are living below the poverty line.

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Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to your action on this important issue.

Best Wishes.

Sincerely,

Phil Flemming  
International Vice President

PF/mw

cc: Minister of Finance, the Hon. Jim Flaherty  
Minister of State for Pensions, the Hon. Ted Menzies