

NDP CONVENTION PASSES EMERGENCY RESOLUTION PROTECTING WORKERS PENSIONS

E-04-11 Resolution on Protecting Workers' Pensions

Submitted By the Labour Caucus

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the New Democratic Party will immediately respond to the recent attacks on the pension plans of workers at Canada Post, Air Canada and other employers by using its parliamentary position to protect workers' pensions by advancing a legislative agenda for the federal jurisdiction that:

- Provides for more flexible solvency funding rules under the Federal Pension Benefits Standards Act, subject to the consent of plan members and/or their unions;
- Prohibits the adoption of pension plan amendments which replace secure defined benefits with insecure defined contribution provisions for newly hired workers or future service;
- Prohibits the employer practice of using pension surpluses to take destabilizing contribution holidays; and
- Raises the status of pension and disability payment obligations in the event of an employer bankruptcy so that all such promises to workers are a higher priority than banks and creditors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the NDP will work with trade unions, the women's movement, and retiree group allies to actively oppose further attacks on workplace pension plans by employers in the federal jurisdiction and across the economy.