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CANADIAN CENTRE
for POLICY ALTERNATIVES
BC Office



SIMON FRASER
UNIVERSITY

ECONOMIC SECURITY PROJECT

CONFERENCE CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS, PAPERS AND PANELS

JOBS & JUSTICE: STRATEGIES AND SOLUTIONS FOR ECONOMIC SECURITY

March 29-31, 2007 – Vancouver, British Columbia

Are you a community or labour activist, a researcher or an academic interested in labour issues such as contracting out and privatization of public sector jobs, precarious jobs, job insecurity, labour rights and standards, low-wage jobs, and immigrant workers? Are you working on advocacy, campaigns or research around labour issues, and would like to share this work with others and find strategies for future action?

CONFERENCE ON LABOUR, WORK AND ECONOMIC SECURITY

We would like to hear from community and labour organizers and activists, academic researchers, community-based researchers, other groups and individuals interested in labour and employment issues and how they affect the economic security of vulnerable communities. What do good jobs look like? What solutions are needed to recognize work as a central part of peoples' lives? *Jobs & Justice: Strategies and Solutions for Economic Security* is a conference that will look at the current state of employment and work in BC and Canada and explore solutions and public policies that would enhance justice, economic security and meet the needs of diverse populations. The conference will emphasize solutions and the differing experiences of workers along gender, race, ethnic and class lines.

CONFERENCE THEMES

The overarching themes of the conference are: *strategies for changing laws and regulations* (how employment standards, labour laws, safety regulations and enforcement affect labour); *solutions for a changing economy* (economic restructuring and how it affects work and labour); and *improving access to the labour market* (education, training and other supports like child care).

BACKGROUND

This conference is part of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives/Simon Fraser University's Economic Security Project, a five-year SSHRC-funded research project that documents and analyzes recent policy changes in BC and their affect on the economic security of vulnerable populations (www.sfu.ca/economicsecurityproject). The conference hopes to foster community-labour-academic collaboration: bringing labour, community and academic researchers and activists together in one setting to discuss labour and work issues.

PROPOSALS FOR CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

While some description and evaluation of the existing labour market situation is necessary, the main focus of the conference and presentations will be on alternatives—the types of policies needed, collective strategies for change, new possibilities and solutions.

We are seeking presentation proposals from a broad range of individuals and groups who want to share their experiences, work, campaigns and/or research on current labour issues. We invite proposals for different types of presentations, including presentations on specific topics, short/informal presentations, paper presentations, poster presentations and panel presentations.

Examples of presentation topics for each conference theme include:

Strategies that Address Changing Laws and Regulations:

- employment standards in BC and/or Canada
- labour flexibility and deregulation
- mandatory retirement
- safety at work
- how regulatory changes shape the political action of unions

Solutions for the Changing Economy and Economic Restructuring:

- labour in resource sectors
- labour and technology
- labour and environment (sustainable solutions)
- labour in rural areas/rural experiences
- unionization of the service sector
- women and work
- immigrant workers, migrant and temporary foreign workers
- Aboriginal workers
- youth workers
- contracting out and privatization of public sector jobs
- lessons from global labour struggles and movements
- precarious labour (seasonal, part-time, temporary and casual work)
- labour coverage in the media

Improving Access to the labour market:

- education, training and apprenticeships
- foreign credentials recognition; helping immigrants gain access to the labour market
- child care
- social assistance
- working with disabilities/accessibility needs

FORMAT OF PROPOSALS

Academic, labour and community-based researchers and activists are invited to submit proposals for either a conference presentation (proposals to deliver a paper or a poster presentation are also welcome) or panel discussion (proposing a panel of 2 to 3 speakers) on a topic. *Please note: presentations need not involve a formal written paper; short and/or informal presentations are also welcome. If you have a presentation idea and would like to discuss this with the Conference Planning Committee before submitting a proposal, please contact us at thi@policyalternatives.ca.*

Please use the following format for your submission:

1. For individual presentation proposals:
 - Cover sheet with: name and organizational affiliation (if any); mailing address; contact (telephone, email, fax); and a brief bio of the presenter.
 - A short description (or abstract) and title of the presentation (length: 1/2 page).
2. For panel proposals:
 - Cover sheet with: name and organizational affiliation of the main contact for the proposal (including mailing address, telephone number, email address and fax number, where available)
 - Title of the panel presentation and brief description of the panel; list of the panel participants (with a brief bio of each); topic of discussion for each participant.

Submissions should be sent to:

ESP Labour Conference Planning Committee
c/o Thi Vu, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives – BC Office
1400 – 207 West Hasting Street, Vancouver, BC, V6B 1H7
Email: thi@policyalternatives.ca

All submissions will be reviewed by the Conference Planning Committee.

If you would like to participate in the conference, information on the conference is forthcoming and will be announced on the Economic Security Project website: www.sfu.ca/economicsecurityproject/

CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSIONS: SEPTEMBER 15, 2006