

## **JOBS FEED FAMILIES, GROW COMMUNITIES STOP BOMBARDIER LAYOFFS IN THUNDER BAY**

Early July, Bombardier announced they would be cutting their 1,100-member Thunder Bay workforce by nearly 50%. Workers at Bombardier - Thunder Bay are represented by COPE Local 81 and Unifor Local 1075. COPE Local 81 which represents engineers, technicians, analysts, design drafters, etc. faces the lay-off of 40% of their membership. More layoffs are expected to be announced in the near future.

It is important to prioritize Canadian content at all levels of government in their vision to provide adequate transit investment to meet the needs of a growing Canada. Currently Ontario and Quebec have legislative capacity to impose local content requirements up to 25%, though most often this is not enforced or applied. Countries such as the USA, under the Buy America Act, has a 70% local-content requirement. The local-content requirement in China is as high as 90%, India at 75% and Brazil at 60% for local-content. A clear political will to invest in local jobs and innovation to drive success in industry.

Recently VIA Rail in Canada awarded a \$989 million taxpayer funded contract to Siemens for trains which will be produced at a plant in Sacramento, California. A clear example of draining the local tax coffers to profit corporate vision elsewhere.

If we are to sustain good jobs, support local workforces and economies, we must ensure that all three levels of Canadian governments prioritize all efforts to enforce and enhance the local-content requirements, ensuring procurement policies that promote local-content requirements. Our taxes must be used to create local jobs that grow communities and local economies.

To point fingers of blame at each other is a diversion. Good jobs and working families need governments that work for them and not faceless corporations with shareholders who do not know the price of groceries and gas.

This is beyond partisan politics; the federal and provincial politicians MUST commit in policy and action to putting Canadian local content first for ALL taxpayer funded projects and hold Bombardier accountable to keeping jobs in Canada.

This is not the time for maybes or possibles. This is the time for decisive action – of courage to put Canadian jobs first, our families and communities first over profit.

