**A CALL TO RESIST SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL DESTRUCTION**

Initiated by the World March of Women in Québec

November 2014

**We, women of the Quebec coordination of the World March of Women, issue a call to resist the social and environmental destruction currently taking place in Québec and Canada.** Between the lie of austerity and promotion of an economy based on the exploitation of people and resources, governments are contributing to an all-out attack on women, social justice and our planet as a whole.

We call for resistance against the governments of Québec and Canada, which defend the interests of employers and claim they have no choice but to cut public spending to “balance the budget”, presented as the only possible road towards a prosperous Québec. What kind of prosperity eliminates services, programs and jobs that provide women with greater freedom and space?

All-out cuts to the social safety net, education, social services, healthcare and community services are hitting Québec women full force. It is no accident that women are being targeted first. Impoverishment, burnout, violence, precarity, undervaluing, overwork and loss of meaning : this is what awaits many women in Québec, with the acceleration of brutal cuts. We will resist this unprecedented attack on the gains of women.

These cuts will increase the gap between women and men, and among women themselves. Our bodies are not consumer goods or machines for production or reproduction. We reject a model where the wealth of some men and women is created on the backs of women who are single parents, low income, precarious, immigrant, black and brown, in poor health. **We are mobilizing for a vision of life and well being of our communities that is different from the one put forward by greedy capitalists who will do anything in the name of profit.**

We are fed up with the lies. We reject the line that Québec has no choice, when political and ideological choices are in fact being made. We are outraged at the idea that our rights, equality and social justice will have to wait until budgets are balanced. Cuts are a false solution to a problem that has been completely manufactured.

We call for resistance against the governments of Québec and Canada, and against the proponents of extractive industries who claim that the future lies in oil and extraction of natural resources: transporting tar sands, developing shale gas and mining uranium. Yet nothing could be further from the truth. When did profits become more important than access to clean water?

**We say NO to this type of patriarchal industry that attacks rights, freedom and access to equality for Indigenous women, Québécoises and immigrants.** In this destructive economy, they are the first to be affected by sexual exploitation and violence. Far from building our communities, these industries contribute to weakening the social fabric and destroying the Earth which sustains us. Who among us wants to see an increase in poverty and dropout rates, in social problems, in inequality between working men and women? At the end of the day, it is always women who are called to manage the social impacts of this economic model on our communities.

**We say NO to this vision of ‘development’ which threatens ecosystems, destroys and annexes unceded Indigenous lands[[1]](#footnote-1), destabilizes our communities and contributes to global warming and to poisoning the water.**

We call for resistance to the warmongering and militaristic logic of the federal government’s current policies. We are fed up with macho and authoritarian policies that promote death and domination in order to resolve conflicts and to conquer. Intimidation has become the norm for the Canadian state. Supporting women and peoples here and abroad means: recognizing the right of peoples to self-determination; funding education; supporting feminist and social movements; and respecting human rights, instead of spending money on F16 fighter jets and on festivals celebrating military culture, or joining imperialist wars in the Middle East. Canada will not participate in the new Iraq war in our name.

Another world is possible. We are mobilizing every day to sustain and create liveable communities and workplaces, for ourselves and in solidarity with women around the world.

We put forward a vision where justice reigns, where domination gives way to peace and freedom. Where women’s work is a source of self-actualization and not exploitation. Where Indigenous women can flourish and not disappear. Where work improves our lives and those of the people around us. Where food is healthy and energy is clean. We believe it is possible to do differently, and to do better. We reject defeatism. We choose life, solidarity and love.

This is what we need to invest in.

**This is why were are mobilizing, and why we will mobilize in 2015 for the 4th Action of the World March of Women in Québec and around the world.**

**From March 8 to October 17, 2015, we will mobilize around the theme : Liberate our bodies, our world, our territories.**

**Join feminist resistance to the lie of austerity and environmental destruction.**

**Join the mobilization for a world of freedom, peace, justice, equality and solidarity, with rage and love.**

For further information: [www.mmfqc.org](http://www.mmfqc.org)

Translation by the Toronto Federation of Labour

1. **Unceded Indigenous territories**: Describes the fact that the Indigenous peoples who lived or still live on a territory never ceded, sold or exchanged it, nor did they transfer it in any way to the people who colonized it, and that no treaty applies to this territory defining its use by different peoples. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)