



2011 Convention Resolutions

Resolutions Referred to AFL Standing Committees

Reference: Disposition of Resolutions and Policy Papers

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

- Res. No. 201 – Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Res. No. 202 – Nuclear Energy
- Res. No. 203 – Nuclear Power
- Res. No. 204 – Environmental Impact of Tailing Ponds
- Res. No. 205 – Green Energy
- Res. No. 206 – Urban Water Usage
- Res. No. 207 – Environmental Bill of Rights
- Res. No. 208 – Omnibus Legislation
- Res. No. 209 – Water Sustainability

ENVIRONMENT

Res. No. 201—Greenhouse Gas Emissions

THE ALBERTA FEDERATION OF LABOUR WILL lobby the Alberta government to change the target reductions from a per-unit emissions reduction to an overall reductions target and introduce legislation that will penalize all facilities for non-compliance to greenhouse gas emissions.

Because Alberta’s regulations on mandatory greenhouse gas reductions for all large industrial sectors is only 12% and must be increased.

Because facilities emitting more than 100,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents per year and that don’t comply with Alberta legislation can either pay into a technology fund called the Climate Change and Emissions Management Fund or purchase offsets.

Because in 2009 facilities that complied with the government of Alberta’s greenhouse emissions targets reduced emissions by seven million tonnes, compliance must be legislated and companies should not be allowed to purchase immunity from their responsibility to the environment.

AFL Executive Council
AFL Environment Committee

M/S/Carried
Concurrence

Res. No. 202 – Nuclear Energy

The Alberta Federation of Labour will lobby the government to:

- adopt a zero tolerance policy for radioactive accidents related to the nuclear energy industry
- institute legislation that will make producers fully responsible for all costs related to radioactive accidents

BECAUSE according to data provided by the Provincial Nuclear Power Expert Panel there is an allowable spillage of radioactive material either by waste materials or water return.

BECAUSE Albertan have the right to a healthy and clean environment for now and future generations.

BECAUSE it is the intent to store radioactive waste above ground and then underground for many years and then dispose or refurbish material, in which the only plant that can do this is overseas, therefore, increasing the risk of exposure through ground and water transport.

AFL Executive Council
AFL Environment Committee

M/S/Carried
Concurrence

Res. No. 203 – Nuclear Power

The Alberta Federation of Labour will lobby the Alberta government to review any current and future applications for nuclear power generation through consultation with the public, including environmental groups, communities, and aboriginal groups prior to approval to address issues of infrastructure and it's environmental impact .

BECAUSE the current Provincial Nuclear Power Expert Panel does not address the disposal of radioactive waste.

BECAUSE radioactive waste will be transported on the provincial highway system and through communities.

BECAUSE communities must have the resources to cope with radioactive accidents.

BECAUSE of the potential environmental impacts on aquifers, water tables and other water sources, for continued cooling of spent fuel bays.

BECAUSE private enterprise often puts the costs of radioactive waste disposal ahead of the public good.

AFL Executive Council
AFL Environment Committee

M/S/Carried
Concurrence

Res. No. 204–Environmental Impact of Tailing Ponds

The Alberta Federation of Labour will lobby the Alberta government and the Energy Resources Conservation Board (ERCB) to promote the development and implementation of technology that will eliminate the need for toxic tailings ponds, and will pressure the Alberta government to require all new oil sands developments to implement best practices for toxic waste management.

BECAUSE oil-sands companies have not met the targets set on their applications for conversion of fluid tailings into fine dry tailings for land reclamation.

BECAUSE oil sands consume three barrels of fresh water for every one barrel of oil production.

BECAUSE tailing ponds and the surrounding wetland area created from seepage have a significant impact on the ecological system in the area.

BECAUSE seepage of toxins from the tailings into the groundwater will impact water quality.

AFL Executive Council
AFL Environment Committee

M/S/Carried
Concurrence

Res. No. 205 – Green Energy

THE ALBERTA FEDERATION OF LABOUR WILL encourage the Alberta government to seek alternative green energy sources and allow for a feed into the power grid.

BECAUSE Albertans have the right to a clean and healthy environment.

BECAUSE green energy sources, such as wind turbines and solar power, consumes no fossil fuels, no water, and emit no air pollutions.

BECAUSE green energy sources, including wind turbines and solar power have the lowest external cost on human health, building and crop damage, global warming, loss of amenities and climate changes in comparison to fossil fuels.

AFL Executive Council
AFL Environment Committee

M/S/Carried
Concurrence

Res. No. 206 – Urban Water Usage

THE ALBERTA FEDERATION OF LABOUR WILL lobby municipal governments to establish a policy that commits to efficient urban water use, both business and residential, through education and by promoting and subsidizing such things as rain barrels, low flow toilets, and smart irrigation.

BECAUSE Alberta is a dry area and there are increased instances of drought due to climate change.

BECAUSE it saves taxpayers money, protects water supplies of downstream communities, reduces greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change and reduces the need for water treatment plant and sewage treatment plant expansions.

AFL Executive Council
AFL Environment Committee

M/S/Carried
Concurrence

Res. No. 207 – Environmental Bill of Rights

THE ALBERTA FEDERATION OF LABOUR WILL lobby the Alberta government to establish an Alberta Environmental Bill of Rights.

BECAUSE Albertans are entitled to a healthy environment with procedural rights guaranteeing public participation in the process.

BECAUSE the government of Alberta must commit to protecting the environment under its jurisdiction.

BECAUSE Albertans are aware of the links between a healthy and ecologically balanced environment and Alberta’s economic, social, cultural and inter-generational security.

BECAUSE Albertans are entitled to environmental information, justice in an environmental context and effective mechanisms for participation in environment decision-making.

BECAUSE any proposed streamlining of the environmental impact assessment process must not debase environmental standards or reduce public input.

BECAUSE actions that result in significant environmental harm compromise the life liberty and security of individuals and are contrary to Section 7 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

AFL Executive Council
AFL Environment Committee

M/S/Carried
Concurrence

Res. No. 208 – Omnibus Legislation

THE ALBERTA FEDERATION OF LABOUR WILL lobby the Canadian Labour Congress to pressure the federal government to cease the use of Omnibus legislation for the passing of environmental laws.

BECAUSE Omnibus legislation circumvents democracy.

BECAUSE the citizens of Canada have the right to full transparency and full debate in enacting environmental laws.

AFL Executive Council
AFL Environment Committee

M/S/Carried
Concurrence

Res. No. 209 – Water Sustainability

THE ALBERTA FEDERATION OF LABOUR WILL lobby the Alberta government to commit to ongoing public debate, including full disclosure and transparency on the allocation of and approval of future applications for water rights in the province of Alberta.

BECAUSE the purpose of the Irrigation Districts Act (Revised Statutes of Alberta 2002 Chapters 1-11) is to provide for the formation, dissolution and governance of Alberta’s thirteen irrigation districts in order that the management and delivery of water in the districts occur in an efficient manner.

BECAUSE the Eastern Irrigation District spent over \$5,000,000.00 of cost shared funds on seven projects between 2007 – 2008 on domestic development in the Springhill area without full public input.

BECAUSE within Alberta water-shed issues are critical concern for environmental and community groups.

BECAUSE water is one of Alberta's most valuable resources and must be protected for future generations.

AFL Executive Council
AFL Environment Committee

M/S/Carried
Concurrence