

Free trade deals have failed Canadians So, why keep negotiating them?

THE FIRST CANADA-US FREE TRADE PACT IN 1988 promised boundless prosperity, economic growth and good jobs for Canadians – in exchange for a new set of rules that shifted greater power to corporations and private investors.

Nearly 30 years later, they've got their power. How much power? Get this... foreign investors (and only foreign investors) have the right to sue Canadians over any environmental, labour and health policies that hurt their profits, through special kangaroo-courts that operate outside our judicial system.

As terrible as this is, we still don't have our promised prosperity, growth and good jobs. In fact:

- Since 1988, Canada's annual rates of GDP growth, investment growth and employment growth have been cut in half – despite having signed 11 new free trade deals;
- Canada now imports \$120 billion more than we EXPORT to the world – a new record, and one that we shouldn't be proud of;
- Canada is the most sued nation under free trade deals. We've already forked over more than \$150 million in penalties, with nearly \$1 billion in potential damages being sought after; and
- Our overall trade performance is actually better with countries where there is no free trade deal in place at all. Go figure.

Trade has always been an economic driver for Canada. Unfortunately, free trade rules have hurt more than they've helped. And Canada has been a net loser.

Supporters of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (the BIGGEST free trade agreement of them all) are promising even more prosperity, growth and good jobs – despite the evidence. You'll excuse us if we don't buy it.

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What YOU can do:

The Trudeau government has undertaken a broad consultation with Canadians on the TPP – a welcome change from the former Harper government, who negotiated the deal in secret.

We are told that the TPP is “non-negotiable”. We either take it, or leave it. And this question will be brought to Parliament at some point before February 2018.

Our country has a unique opportunity to reject a generation’s worth of free trade’s false promises. We have an opportunity to re-evaluate our approach to trade, using it as a tool to promote social and economic development, instead of fatter profits for big business.

Let’s tell our elected officials to **TRADE THE TPP**. Let’s do trade the right way. Let’s imagine a fair trade future for Canada.

Find out more at:

unifor.org/TPP

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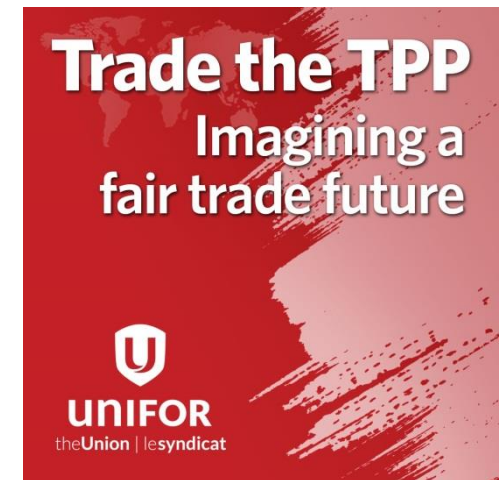
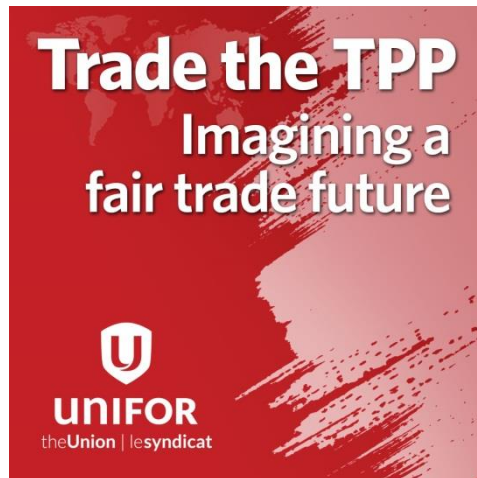
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