

Eh! Mr. Harper, the economic crisis is not a reason to take away our rights!

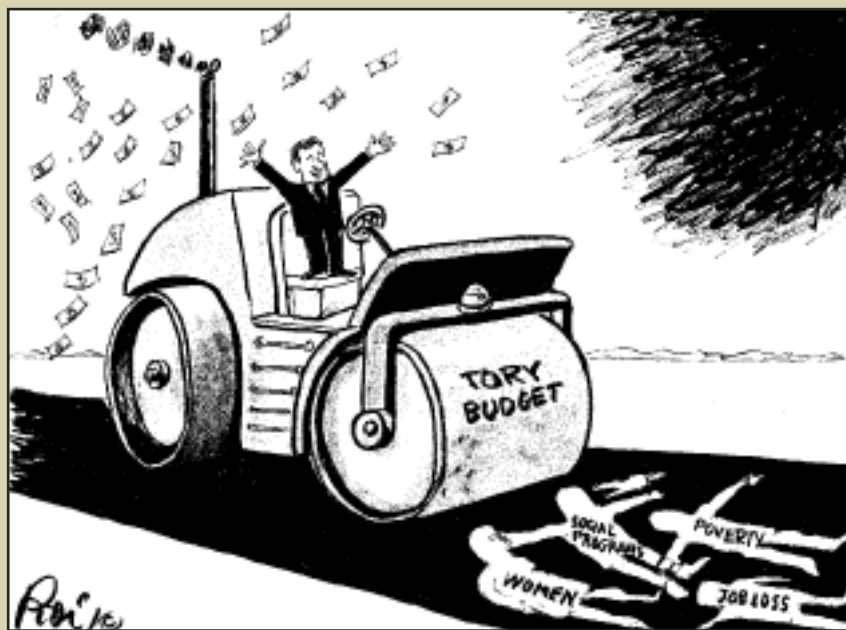
This May 1, we must remind ourselves that the current economic crisis must not be used as an excuse for companies and governments to chip away at the rights that have been painstakingly acquired over the years.

Pay equity, the right to bargain collectively, maternity and paternity leave, benefits for injured workers, reconciling work and family and a host of other benefits that unionized and non-union workers now enjoy have been earned due to the struggles waged by union activists such as those with the Public Service Alliance of Canada. These gains are just as important today as they were yesterday, and we must issue

reminders of this to our governments which all too often use these crises to go back on their promises or restrict rights.

The Harper government took the opportunity afforded by the last budget to attack the rights of public sector workers to obtain pay equity. Moreover, despite signing several collective agreements ratified by our members, it rolled back the salary hikes to take effect over the next few years, which had been negotiated in good faith.

For some 50, 000 PSAC members, this May 1 is the beginning of the next federal election campaign: 50,000 people will remember the attacks on their fundamental rights on election day.



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