July 25, 2008

TO: All CAW-Canada Locals

CALL FOR SUPPORT

Greetings:

As you are aware Air Canada and Jazz have announced a reduction in staff and base closures to be effective this fall. These cutbacks affect several bargaining units that represent workers in many different areas of service and customer service at airports in provinces all across Canada.

The announced cutbacks including almost 500 members at CAW bargaining units at Air Canada and Jazz will have a devastating effect on the lives of those affected within all unions. They will also result in reduced service to customers in all bases and the closure of bases in Comox and Hamilton. Many workers are now faced with the uncertainty of how they will be affected by the cuts and many will have to exercise bumping rights that will see them displaced from their current positions, their current workplace and in some cases they will be forced to relocate from province to province in order to maintain employment.

We are calling on the employers to reduce the number of those who will be cut and to maintain services to all of their current bases. In addition the employers have an absolute obligation to work with the various unions in order to minimize the affects these cuts will have on our members and the public. The unions have put forth several proposals to mitigate the affects of the cuts on our members including, early retirements, voluntary separations, etc. and proposals that would ensure that no members would suffer financial hardship as a result of being forced to relocate.

Please join us as we stand along side our brothers and sisters at CUPE and send a strong united message to the employer as we fight their “Lean and Mean” agenda and call for fairness for all workers affected.

Attached is a schedule of rallies to take place across the country on July 28, 2008. I encourage all CAW members, our families and friends to attend the rallies and send a strong message to Air Canada to maintain proper levels of customer service, to maintain service to all of their current bases and to mitigate the devastating effects these announced cuts will have on their workers.

In solidarity,

Bob Orr /sg

Robert J. Orr
Assistant to the Secretary-Treasurer

attach