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To the Parliamentary Coordinators of the Mexican Congress

By email to:

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Labour Law Reform in Mexico

Dear Parliamentary Coordinators of the Mexican Congress:

I am writing to you on behalf of Service Employees International Union (SEIU Canada) representing 100,000 members across Canada, to express our deepest concern over the recent announcement from outgoing President Felipe Calderón that he has drafted an extremely regressive labor law reform proposal for your consideration, under a new "preferential" fast track process.

The proposed law reform would result in a drastic decline in current workers' rights and protections. It would cheapen the cost of labour while providing further cover and protection for the system of corporatist control that is at the heart and sustenance of the employer protection-contract system. Furthermore, it would destroy the independent trade union movement in Mexico by effectively eliminating the already difficult openings through which groups of workers can obtain representation by the union of their choice.

Regardless of the legality of the fast-track process, it is clearly undemocratic and presents a truly unfortunate image of Mexico: utter contempt for the views of legislators, workers and citizens, and in clear violation of international labour and human rights standards, including ILO Conventions 87 and 98; Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Articles 20 and 23); International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Article 8); and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Article 22), inter alia.

We call on you to put an end to this proposed law reform initiative and instead help launch a national social dialogue that will give a voice to independent trade unions and is fully consistent with workers' human and labour rights, with particular emphasis on the full realization of the rights to freedom of association and collective bargaining.

With best regards,

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