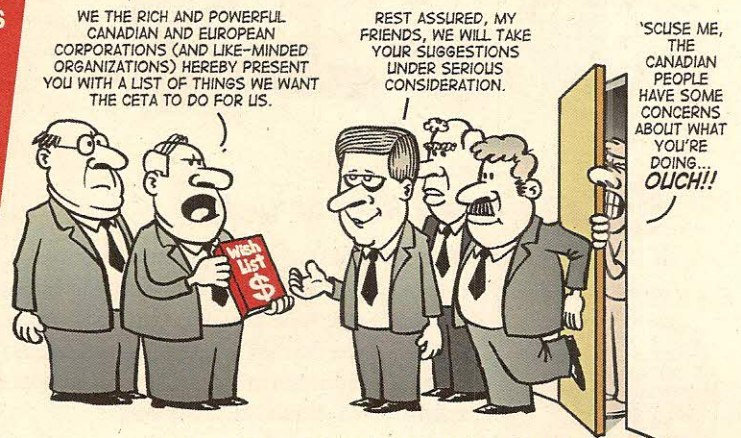


Hey Canada, heard of the CETA yet? No? It's not surprising! Once again, our federal and provincial government and business leaders are negotiating a "free trade" deal behind the backs of Canadians. This time, it's called the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement, or CETA for short. It will change the face of Canada as we know it, and Harper wants to sign it in a hurry — *before anyone has a chance to debate it!*

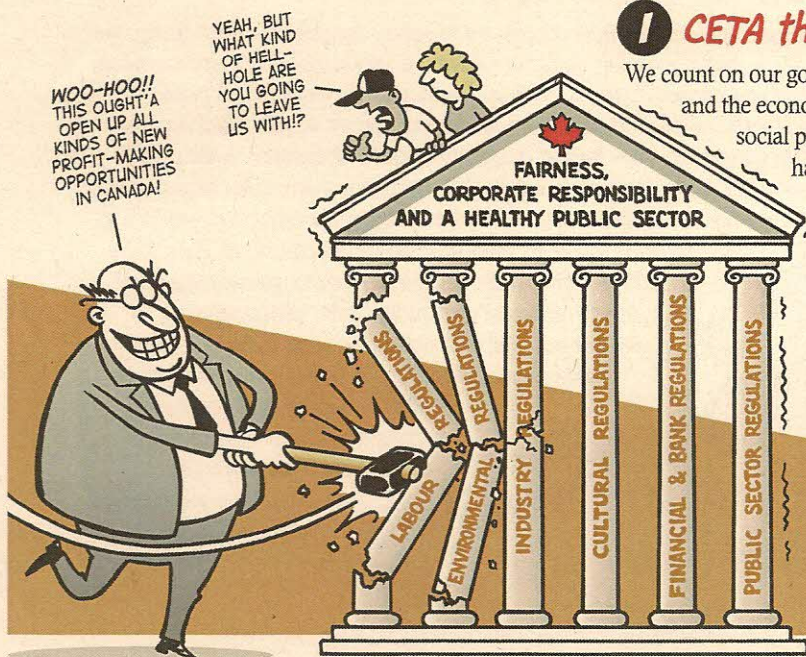
Trade with Europe would be a good idea if it meant more good jobs and better social services. But like all "free trade" agreements, the CETA is not about that. It's about boosting corporate rights, lowering environmental standards, and weakening public services. As currently written, the CETA will threaten many aspects of our lives, from our public services, to our jobs, our environment, our food, our culture, our telecommunications, our water and resources — even our democratic rights!



At a summit between Canada and the E.U. in October 2008, a group of large Canadian and European corporations gave government officials a "wish list" — things they want to see in a free trade agreement. Not surprisingly, this helped set the official bargaining agenda for the free trade talks. Civil society organizations representing Canadians have not been given sufficient opportunities to voice their concerns.

LET'S TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT WHAT'S AT STAKE.

TOP TEN REASONS WHY CETA IS BAD FOR CANADA



1 CETA threatens our public services!

We count on our governments to run a broad range of public services which help society and the economy function — from health care and education to water treatment, social programs, and everything in between. By making sure that everyone has fair access, we ensure a good quality of life for Canadians. But international big business doesn't like publicly-run services, or the regulations that protect them. To them, public services are just one more thing to make money on. The CETA threatens to privatize and deregulate many of our public services. In fact, everything could be up for grabs, including municipal water systems, electrical utilities — even our mail delivery!

Our mail service is in jeopardy!

We have a postal service in Canada that guarantees basic mail delivery in all parts of our vast country. But this is expensive. So in order to pay for it, government regulations give Canada Post the exclusive right to handle addressed letters without competition from private companies. But the CETA appears to deregulate some kinds of letters so transnational corporations can provide them for profit. This would put our public mail delivery in jeopardy.



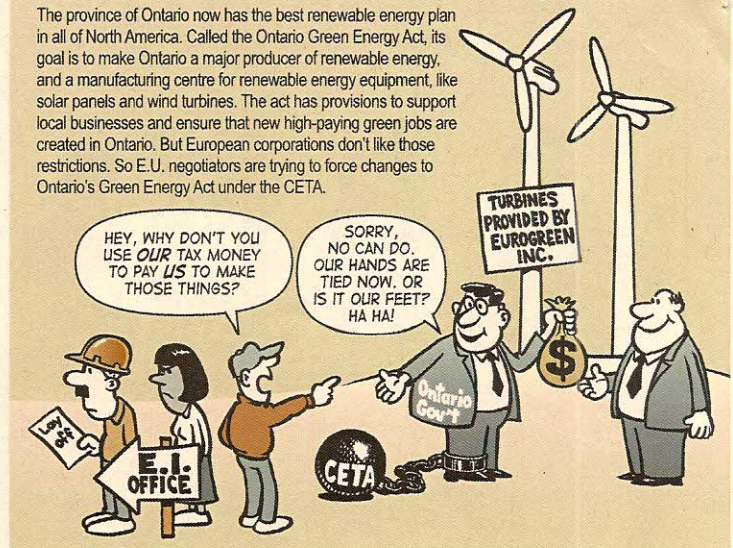
2 CETA threatens local job creation

Especially during economic hard times, we expect our governments to use our tax dollars to **create jobs and business opportunities** in our local communities, provinces and territories. One way governments do this is by deciding to purchase the goods and services they need (sometimes called "procurement") from **local companies**. But the CETA threatens this! European corporations want unrestricted access to the purchasing that our provincial and municipal governments do.



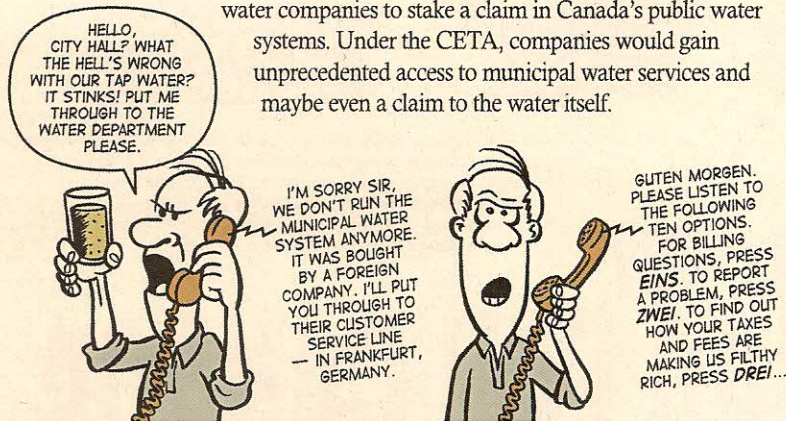
New green jobs for Ontarians? Maybe not!

The province of Ontario now has the best renewable energy plan in all of North America. Called the Ontario Green Energy Act, its goal is to make Ontario a major producer of renewable energy, and a manufacturing centre for renewable energy equipment, like solar panels and wind turbines. The act has provisions to support local businesses and ensure that new high-paying green jobs are created in Ontario. But European corporations don't like those restrictions. So E.U. negotiators are trying to force changes to Ontario's Green Energy Act under the CETA.



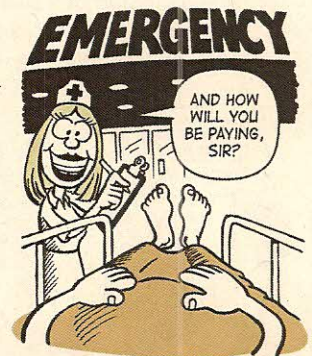
3 CETA threatens our water

E.U. trade negotiators have requested that drinking water services be included in the CETA, opening the door for large European multinational water companies to stake a claim in Canada's public water systems. Under the CETA, companies would gain unprecedented access to municipal water services and maybe even a claim to the water itself.



4 CETA threatens our public health care

The E.U. has made it clear: they want **all** of our public services covered by the CETA — **including health care**. The trade deal will expose Canadian medicare to privatization pressures more than past free trade deals did. European health service companies will have greater access to our medicare services, especially in provinces that are **already opening the door** to private surgical clinics or other privatized care. Worst of all, under the rules of NAFTA, we'll have to offer the same access to private health corporations from the United States!

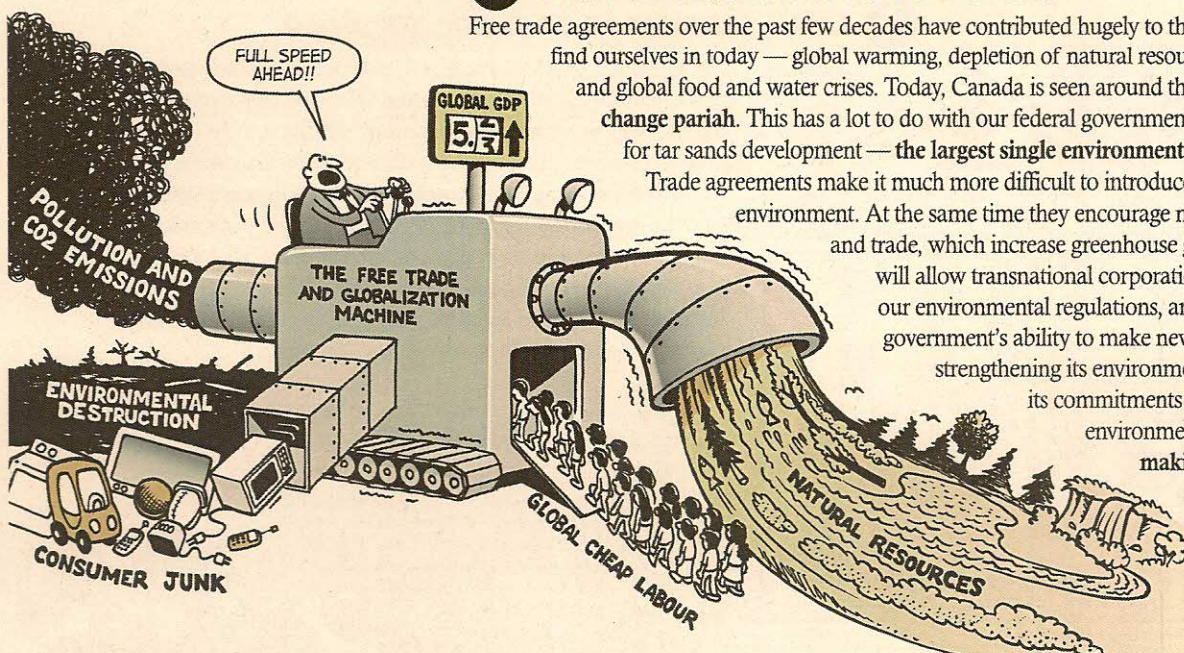


5 CETA threatens our environment

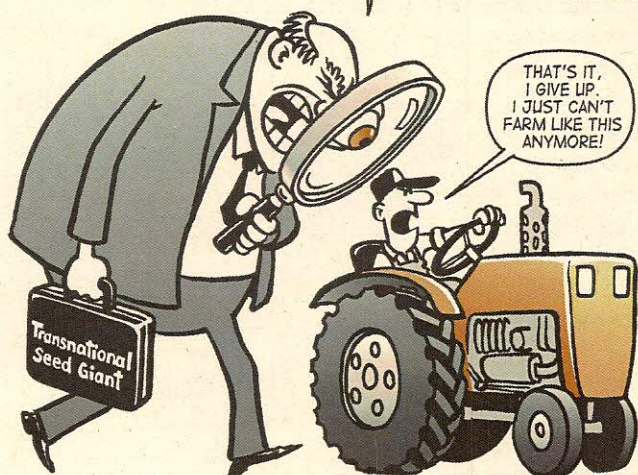
Free trade agreements over the past few decades have contributed hugely to the global ecological crisis we find ourselves in today — global warming, depletion of natural resources, collapsing ecosystems, and global food and water crises. Today, Canada is seen around the world as a **climate change pariah**. This has a lot to do with our federal government's unquestioned support for tar sands development — **the largest single environmental disaster on the planet**.

Trade agreements make it much more difficult to introduce stricter rules to protect the environment. At the same time they encourage more extraction, production and trade, which increase greenhouse gas emissions. The CETA will allow transnational corporations to ignore or challenge our environmental regulations, and it will impede our government's ability to make new ones. Canada should be strengthening its environmental laws and honouring

its commitments to existing international environmental agreements — **not making more free trade agreements that guarantee corporate rights.**



ONE WRONG MOVE
WITH OUR PROPRIETARY GENETIC
MATERIAL AND I SWEAR WE'LL HAVE
YOUR BUTT IN COURT SO FAST YOU
WON'T KNOW WHAT HIT YOU!!



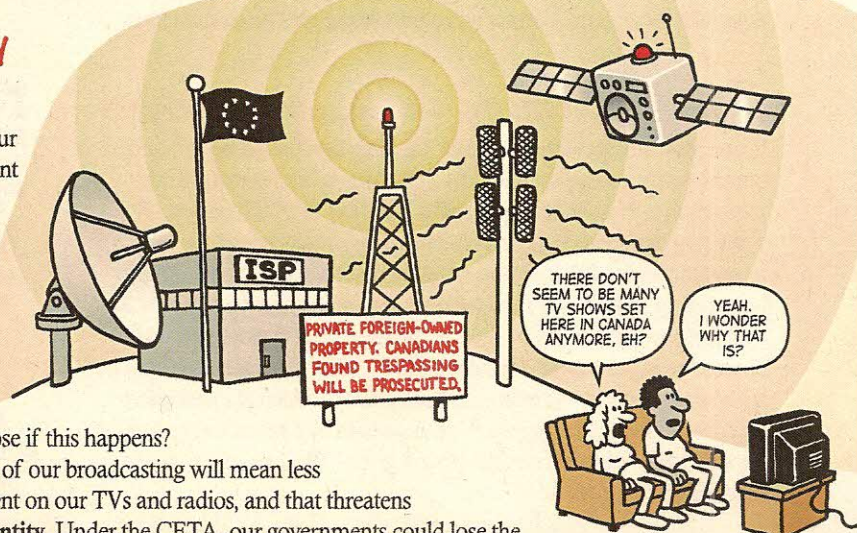
6 CETA threatens our food sovereignty and farmers' rights

Our farmers have a very hard job to do — producing the food that we need to survive. Over recent decades our farmers have faced increasing challenges and obstacles as a few giant transnational corporations have gained control over every part of our food system. The CETA will now make this situation much worse! It will give biotech, pharmaceutical, pesticide, seed, and grain companies powerful new tools to force farmers to buy gene patented seeds at high prices. Worse, it will almost entirely eliminate the rights of farmers to save, reuse and sell seed! Corporations could seize farmers' crops, equipment, and farms, and freeze their bank accounts if they are found with crops from patented seeds that they did not pay royalties on — even if their crops were “genetically contaminated” by natural cross breeding from neighbouring fields! In addition, policies that encourage the use of locally produced food are under threat. As our farmers face the future challenges of global warming and declining fossil fuel availability, they will need more support in order to keep us supplied with healthy food. Trade agreements just support greedy corporations.

7 CETA threatens our cultural and communications sovereignty

Canada's cultural protections are basic to our identity, while our communications networks are essential to business, government and public services. Since it's so important, we have laws requiring telecom and broadcasting companies to be majority owned and controlled by Canadians (foreign investment is allowed, but only up to 47 per cent). But CETA will remove this restriction, allowing foreign companies to control Canadian broadcasting and communications services!

FOR THESE REASONS, MANY OTHER COUNTRIES
PROTECT THEIR TELECOMMUNICATIONS FROM
FOREIGN CONTROL, INCLUDING THE U.S.,
JAPAN, AUSTRALIA AND CHINA.

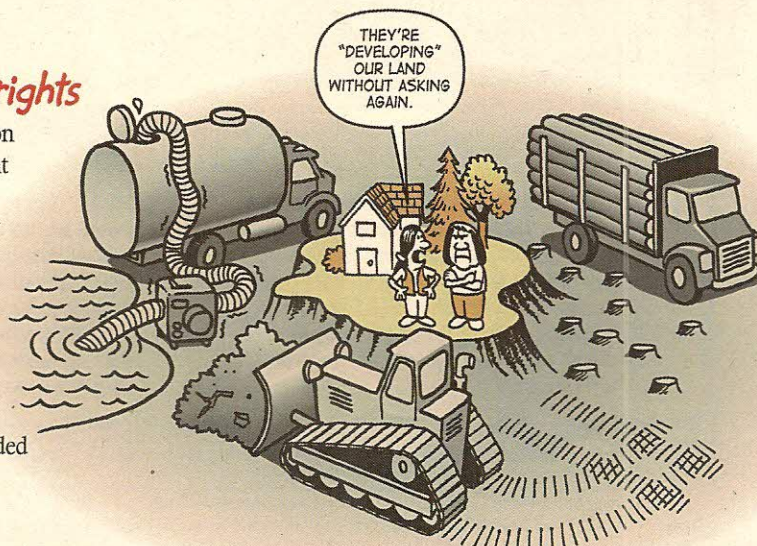


What will we lose if this happens?

Foreign control of our broadcasting will mean less Canadian content on our TVs and radios, and that threatens our **cultural identity**. Under the CETA, our governments could lose the ability to protect and promote Canadian arts and culture! It could also affect our **sovereignty** and our universal access to telecom services. Our laws ensure basic telecom services are provided to everyone — including Canadians living in remote areas. But that may change if foreign corporations gain control of our telecom services, and cut services that are not profitable without regard to our needs.

8 CETA threatens Indigenous people's rights

Canada has recently offered qualified support for the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. While this is a welcome step, the right of Indigenous peoples to “Free, Prior and Informed Consent” before any development happens on their lands is often not respected federally or provincially. Mining, oil extraction, dam construction and other environmentally destructive economic activities often take place on or close to Indigenous people's lands without their informed consent. The Alberta tar sands are a perfect example. Indigenous concerns, such as rivers being contaminated with cancer-causing chemicals, continue to be ignored. The CETA would undoubtedly run up against Indigenous rights as all trade agreements do, by giving corporations added powers to get their way, developing where and how they want.



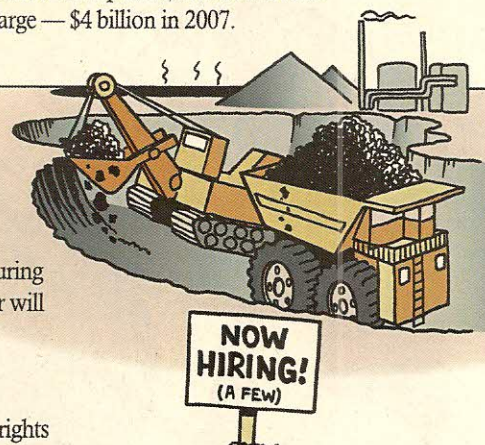


9 CETA threatens the quality of our jobs and our labour rights

Canada has a huge trade deficit with the E.U. That means we import more goods and services from the E.U. than we export to them. In 2008 we imported \$17 billion more in E.U. goods than we exported, and a lot of this was in high-end goods like autos. Our trade deficit in services was also large — \$4 billion in 2007.

This is a sign that Canadians are being deprived of good-paying jobs in manufacturing, technological innovation and high-end services.

The CETA will likely make this situation worse. Prime Minister Harper's vision for Canada is to make us a global energy and resource superpower. He wants to open up foreign markets to increase our exports of raw materials like oil and petroleum products, diamonds, gold and other metals. But remember, Canada has already lost over 550,000 good-paying manufacturing jobs in recent years. Putting more focus on the resource sector will only hurt our manufacturing even more.



The CETA also threatens the **rights** of all workers. CETA negotiators will say “not to worry,” labour standards will be maintained. But any agreement on labour standards will be meaningless if workers’ rights are corroded by investors’ rights or left unenforced. Instead, we need **stronger enforcement of labour law**, especially for migrant workers and others facing precarious situations.

10 CETA threatens our democratic rights

If our governments, which we elect, can't regulate on our behalf, or use our tax dollars to support our local economies when needed, all due to trade rules that put corporate rights first, then the CETA is actually a threat to our democratic system. But wait — it gets worse! CETA negotiators are planning to give transnational corporations and foreign investors the **right to sue** our governments over policies or decisions that they feel prevent them from making profits — even if those policies or decisions are in the **public's interest**! It's NAFTA all over again. That free trade agreement has the infamous “Chapter 11” which allowed many such lawsuits and challenges to Canadian laws by foreign investors. Who pays the suit if the government is found guilty? We do — the Canadian people!! With our taxes!!



The Harper government is pushing ahead with the CETA very quickly. We must act now to stop them — before it's too late!



What you can do....

➔ **Call your municipal councillors, provincial politicians and your Member of Parliament. Tell them you don't like the look of this free trade deal with the E.U. for all the reasons highlighted here. Tell them we need a national debate on it now!**

➔ **Visit www.tradejustice.ca to learn more about the CETA, and find out what Canadian farmers, artists, environmentalists, organized workers and regular citizens are doing right now to raise public awareness over this agreement and the actions they've taken to stop it.**

➔ **If you're part of an organization, consider having them sign the **Civil Society Declaration on the Canada-E.U. Trade Agreement** and become a member of the **Trade Justice Network**. info@tradejustice.ca**

Trade Justice Network Alternatives, ATTAC-Québec, Canadian Auto Workers Union, Canadian Biotechnology Action Network, Canadian Conference of the Arts, Canadian Labour Congress, Canadian Union of Postal Workers, Canadian Union of Public Employees, Canadian Union of Public Employees Ontario, Canadian Youth Climate Coalition, Common Frontiers, Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union, Council of Canadians, Fédération des travailleurs et travailleuses du Québec, Indigenous Environmental Network, International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, Manitoba Federation of Labour, National Farmers Union, National Union of Public and General Employees, Northern Territories Federation of Labour, Ontario Council of Hospital Unions, Polaris Institute, Public Service Alliance of Canada, Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario, Rideau Institute, Science for Peace, Sierra Club Canada, United Steelworkers

Designed and illustrated by Tony Biddle, www.perfectworlddesign.ca. Based on Trade Justice Network research and analysis. © 2010, Tony Biddle

