



Selling Off Our Resources... ...And Giving Away Our Jobs

The Big Sell-Out

You've probably heard some controversy about the Chinese government taking over Canadian resources. They've already bought at least \$15 billion worth of our oil companies. Now a state firm, CNOOC, wants to take over Nexen (a major Canadian oil company) for another \$15 billion.

So far the government in Ottawa has allowed all this to happen. In fact, Stephen Harper is ready to sign a new "investment protection" deal with China, that will make it even easier for China to buy our resources.

But there's another side to this story of betrayal. At the same time as our resources are slipping into Chinese hands, **our manufacturing jobs are disappearing** there, too.

For example, General Motors has shifted an entire contract for exhaust parts from the Wescast plant in Strathroy, Ontario, to a Chinese company called Fujiwa. This caused dramatic downsizing at the Strathroy operation. CAW represents those workers (in Local 504).

Making matters worse, what's left of Wescast is now being sold to another Chinese company, Sichuan Bohong. Sichuan Bohong wants Wescast's technology and customer network. But does it want Wescast's Canadian plants and Canadian workers? We need government to review takeovers like this, to protect Canadian interests.

So CAW members at Wescast are now on the picket line. They are fighting for some decent job security through the next contract, to protect them as Wescast restructures.

General Motors is only alive today thanks to **\$10 billion in financial aid** from the Ontario and Canadian governments. GM's workers have sacrificed, just like Wescast and other auto parts workers have sacrificed, to keep this industry in business. When GM took the government money, they promised to make a continuing commitment to Canada's economy – including through its purchases of auto parts.

The Chinese government did nothing to save General Motors. Canada's government helped them. Canada's taxpayers helped them. Canadian auto workers helped them. So what gives GM the right to move this work from Canada to China?

The Wescast operation at Strathroy has been restructuring to deal with the pressures of the high Canadian dollar, and the downsized auto industry. It is bidding on new work and finding cost savings.

But GM's decision will kill the plant, and destroy the jobs. If GM is allowed to shift these jobs to China, no-one's job is safe.

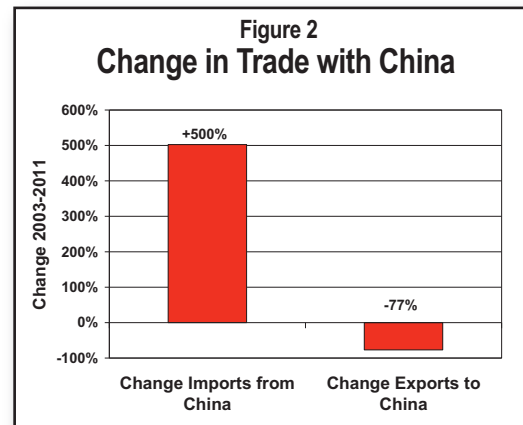
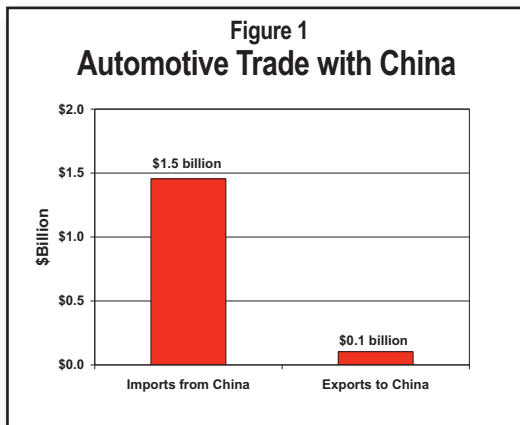
The Wescast workers need our solidarity, and we will stand with them – at other auto parts plants, and at GM assembly plants.

A Terrible Imbalance

Canada's economic ties with China are incredibly unbalanced. We import \$48 billion per year from China, but only sell \$17 billion back the other way. That's a deficit of \$31 billion per year – way larger even than the federal government's deficit.

A rising flood of automotive imports from China is making things worse. Last year, Canada imported \$1.5 billion of automotive products from China. We exported just \$0.1 billion back the other way. Since 2003, imports from China have surged 500%. But our automotive exports to China have actually collapsed – by over 75%. Shifting the Wescast work to China will obviously worsen the deficit.

Even though China's economy is growing rapidly, their government makes sure that Chinese consumers buy Chinese cars – not Canadian cars. Why can't our government demand the same thing?



How long will our government allow China to sell everything they can here, without buying anything back? And how long will they allow companies like GM take advantage of desperate Chinese workers, destroying the livelihoods of Canadians?

What makes it worse, is that **the inflow of Chinese money to buy up oil companies helps drive up the Canadian dollar**. And that makes it all the more profitable to shift production to lower-cost plants in China. They get it both ways: they get our oil, and they get our jobs.

What You Can Do

A few dozen CAW members at Wescast can't beat a huge corporation like GM, and the terrible actions of our government, on their own. But together, our whole union can send a message to the companies, and to the government, that our livelihoods are not for sale.

1. Call, e-mail, or write to your MP. Tell them to protect Canadian auto jobs from being offshored to China. And tell them to stop the sell-out of Canadian resources, including the Canada-China investment agreement.
2. Attend the demonstration the CAW is organizing at the Chinese consulate. Watch for details.
3. Be ready to support your union as we find ways to pressure Wescast, General Motors, and the Canadian government to stop this sell-out.

We will draw a line in the sand. Canada needs manufacturing jobs. Corporations like GM and Wescast must pay Canadian workers the respect we deserve. And our own government must defend our interests, not the corporations.

Together we will make a difference. Thank you for your support.