

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **Toronto Councillors Say No To Sweatshops**

TORONTO – Today Toronto City Council approved unanimously a ‘No Sweat’ resolution which requires that all uniforms, garments, and apparel items worn by City workers be purchased from ‘No Sweat’ manufacturers.

The motion, introduced by Councillor David Miller (Parkdale-High Park), aims to prevent the City from spending tax dollars to buy uniforms and garments made under sweatshop conditions. The City’s Director of Purchasing will work with representatives from industry, labour, religious and human rights organizations to develop new provisions to this effect in the City’s purchasing policy.

Across Canada, concerned citizens have been lobbying city governments to adopt ‘No Sweat’ purchasing policies. The Ethical Trading Action Group (ETAG), Canada’s anti-sweatshop coalition, has been coordinating the ‘No Sweat’ campaign.

“The City of Toronto spends millions of dollars each year on uniforms for police, firefighters and other City workers,” said Ian Thomson of ETAG. “The city has taken an important first step toward ensuring that these garments are not being made in sweatshops.”

To date, over 30 city, county and state governments in the US have passed anti-sweatshop procurement legislation. Toronto is the first metropolitan city in Canada to adopt such a resolution.

Over the last two years, the City of Toronto has made more than \$6.1-million in apparel purchases. The apparel industry, which has grown significantly in the last few years, is plagued by sweatshop labour conditions, such as poverty wages, unsafe working conditions, and violations of workers’ rights.

According to Alex Dagg, Ontario Council Director of UNITE, “Responsible apparel manufacturers in Toronto cannot compete for city contracts with unscrupulous employers using sweatshop practices.”

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