

# Making the Environment a Workers' Issue



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**WILL**  **2006** <http://www.caw.ca>

# Who?



CAW TCA  
CANADA

- *CAW is the Canadian largest private sector union whose members work in a broad range of industries.*

We want to tell you about a new idea that's catching on. It's good for our communities, good for our jobs, and best of all, it's good for the planet! It's called...



## Extended Producer Responsibility

**What is EPR?**  
EPR means making automotive and other manufacturers take full responsibility for the goods they produce — even after a product's useful life is over.

**For the auto industry, EPR means:**

- 1 making sure parts are sourced from environmentally responsible suppliers
- 2 designing cars that can be disassembled, that have reusable and recyclable parts, and that are free of toxic materials. And most importantly...
- 3 taking apart old cars when they're ready for the trash — and then reusing or recycling the parts!

**Sounds great, but how can it be done?**  
Easy. By getting manufacturers to build "disassembly plants," where cars can be taken apart and disposed of properly. Disassembly plants will create new jobs in our communities.

**Can EPR really work?**  
YES! They're already doing it in Europe. It's time for Canadian manufacturers to "get with the program." With the government's help, we can make sure Canadian auto makers do their bit for a sustainable environment and a brighter future.



**EPR** It's just a good idea!

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# Why?

- **Establish and strengthen workers' right to bargain environmental issues with employers, to make environment a workers' issue.**



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# What?

- Bargained in Auto Companies' joint environment committees for payment of Union env. Reps. times & activities.
- Increased awareness in union membership regarding environmental issues



## Lessons & Conclusions

- There is an Environmental role for TUs at the Workplace that can be negotiated.
- Campaigns extend to issues in the community.
- Health & safety is linked to environmental issues.
- Challenging management rights is fundamental to environmental transformation in the workplace.