BCGEU Equity and Human Rights

Sweatshops – What can you do

- **When shopping for clothing,** check the label. Show your union pride and buy BCGEU clothing. Let friends, family and co-workers know why you're an ethical shopper.
- **Buy clothes from consignment and second hand stores.** Alter clothes to make them fit perfectly, or personalize them.
- **Hold a clothing swap party.**
- **Ask store managers** of retail clothing chains if they have any sweat-free clothing. Explain why you are concerned.
- **Write to clothing manufacturers.**
- **Talk to your municipal/city council about passing a no sweat resolution.**
- **Question your consumption.** Even though the store might have a "buy three shirts, get two free" sale, ask yourself if you really need five more shirts, and if so, at what cost? Would you spend more money on one quality, sweat-free shirt?
- **Check out resources for more information – see below:**

Where to get more information:

Canadian Labour Congress
www.clc-ctc.ca

Oxfam Canada
www.oxfam.ca

No More Sweatshops
http://sweatshop.clc-ctc.ca/

Maquila Solidarity Network
www.maquilasolidarity.org

Shopping information: BCGEU's online store will be opening soon

http://www.bcgeu.ca/BCGEU_store

Books (recommended by Oxfam):

No Logo – Taking Aim at the Brand Bullies by Naomi Klein (Toronto: 2000, Vintage Canada)

No Sweat: Fashion, Free Trade and the Rights of Garment Workers, Andrew Ross, ed. (London: 1997, Verso)

The Sweatshop Quandary: Corporate Responsibility on the Global Frontier, Pamela Varley, ed. (Washington: 1998, Investor Responsibility Research Center)

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