

# End right to strike in public services-CFIB says

## Mainstream Canada

By W. Roger Worth

The threatened strike by Air Canada flight attendants was averted, but now 19,000 letter carriers and drivers are getting set to tie up mail service once again.

Hardly a month goes by

without one union or another holding the country to ransom over wage demands, as they threaten to shut down essential public services.

It's now clear that unions representing government workers at all levels, as well as those providing basic services, have altogether too much power.

Two recent events underscore that simple fact.

In the case of Air Canada flight attendants, negotiators for the government-owned

airline were forced to offer what many people believe was an excessive settlement. If the

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cost cannot be passed on to the traveling public through higher fares, Air Canada could lose money. But the public still pays because taxpayers (through the federal government) would have to cover the loss.

Things are a little different in the real world where companies have to stay competitive to survive.

Troubled Chrysler Corp. is a prime example of what can happen when a private sector firm's on the skids.

Chrysler workers in Canada have already been forced to give up one wage increase and they are now being asked to make further concessions. Chrysler chairman Lee Iacocca bluntly warned the

firm's labor force that they either accept a wage freeze or lose their jobs.

While governments in Canada and U.S. have provided some financial support for Chrysler, the workers understand only too well that the handouts will not go on forever.

As a result, there is little question they will vote to save their jobs.

That's not the case with

public sector unions. To them, the public purse is seen as a bottomless pit. They believe governments can't go broke.

The time has arrived to eliminate the right to strike in the public service. By replacing the strike weapon with a form of arbitration that ties salaries to those paid by private sector businesses, we would all be winners.

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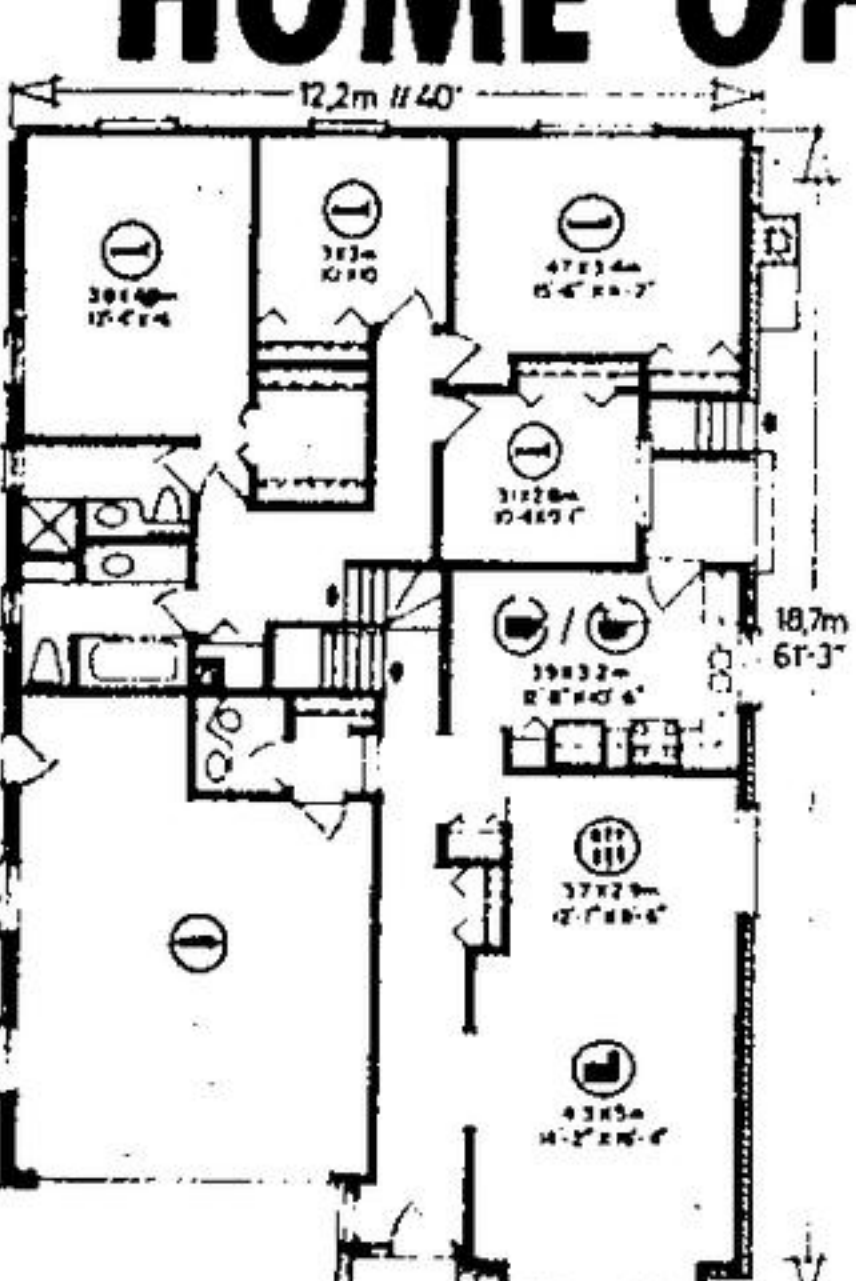
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The weather-protected entry leads traffic into a long hallway and reception foyer, and naturally to the right, into the large rectangular living-dining room combination. The dining area separates from the kitchen-dinette via a space-saving pocket door, thus affording excellent separation of formal dining and more relaxed family meals.  
The well-planned L-shape kitchen and dinette provides generous countertop work surfaces, abundant cupboard storage facilities and a step-saving work triangle configuration. The dinette area provides adequate space for the employment of either a standard dinette suite or built-in banquette-style nook furnishings. A swing-in door provides access to a side-facing patio, for ease of access to outdoor dining in the weather.  
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