

## LAST WORDS

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### CLC'S NANCY RICHE MOVES LABOUR FORUM TO TEARS

Poem by St. Lucia activist evokes image of blood, tears and death for workers around the world under free trade

Nancy Riche, secretary-treasurer of the Canadian Labour Congress, welcomed delegates to the Labour Forum at the People's Summit in Quebec City April 18. "While they can't see us from inside The Wall of Shame, they will see our shadows," she told delegates. "And they will see the shadows of the thousands of men and women around the world who have been murdered because they belonged to trade unions." She received a standing ovation and moved many to tears—herself included—reading a poem by St. Lucia labour activist Henry Charles.

My sweat  
You stole it  
Every drop, every bit.  
Bottled and shipped it  
Destination—Wall Street where your mercenaries  
Armed with attachés and designer suits  
Record its arrival on balance sheets.  
My blood  
Every drop, every bit  
You stole it  
Deposited and wired it  
Destination—Bay Street  
Your loyal undertakers  
Wash and transfer it  
Yesterday, I died on a Bangkok Street.

*Henry Charles  
Castines, St. Lucia  
April 13, 2001*

## SOLIDARITY 4EVER

### *VERSE 1*

This sound came to be  
A continuity  
From the ashes of the old  
This wisdom is gold  
Brothers and sisters  
It's time to look around  
If we don't come massive  
We'll be driven to the ground  
It's a new millennium  
New piece of history  
All the workers come together  
It's time for unity  
While the rich just get richer  
The poor keep on giving  
It's a sign of the times  
Reality's what we're living  
The media is deception  
We get handed lies  
But you can't cheat a worker  
Cuz a worker is wise  
Day after day  
We have to keep it going  
Year after year  
The Union keeps growing  
Taken untold millions  
That they never worked to earn  
But without our brain and muscle  
Not a single wheel could turn  
Not a force on earth is weaker  
Than the feeble strength of one  
Solidarity forever  
The Union makes us strong

### *CHORUS*

All working peoples  
It's time to come together  
A Union makes us strong  
Solidarity forever

### *VERSE 2*

Yes, we kick it on da real  
Make it so the people feel  
Inspiration  
Driving all the nation  
End exploitation  
Yes, we gotta pull together  
Brothers and sisters  
Yo, it's time for coordination  
Through our sisters and our brothers  
We can make our Union strong  
For respect and equal value  
We have done without too long  
We no longer have to tolerate  
Injustices and wrongs  
Solidarity forever  
Yes, the Union makes us strong  
We're the ones who run the show  
Just let everybody know  
With our brains and our muscle  
This is how we get hustled  
Solidarity forever  
Kick it to da people  
Always keep it real  
Yes, always keep it simple  
There's not time for politicking  
The clock keeps on ticking  
We have to organize  
Open our eyes  
It's time to see the truth  
It's reality  
We have to make it solid  
It's time for Unity

### *CHORUS*

All working peoples  
It's time to come together  
A Union makes us strong  
Solidarity forever

### *REPEAT VERSE 1*

*UFCW Canada:  
Solidarity 4ever lyrics and credits*