

# *International Brotherhood of*

**BOILERMAKERS • IRON SHIP BUILDERS**

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**The Calgary Herald**

## **LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

Re: "Ewart: Chinese envoy has solution for oilpatch labour woes," January 18<sup>th</sup>

China's new consul general, Wang Xingping, thinks Canadian workers are "too expensive" and is lobbying for our government to open the gates to a flood of cheaper labour from his country.


Wages and working conditions are indeed better in Canada than in China. Let's be thankful for that.

Canadians have rights that people in China can only dream of, one of which is to freely bargain our wages and working conditions. Compensation is determined by legal agreements between employees and employers, not by what a foreign company thinks it should be able to get away with.

We welcome workers from outside Canada when they're needed: when there are no Canadian workers available to do the job. But we insist they be treated the same as Canadians, not as cheap labour in the race to the bottom. Foreign companies must play by Canadian rules.

The Chinese government gets very upset when Canadians criticize China for its lack of human rights. How, then, can Mr. Wang recommend that our own government undertake a measure that would undercut the rights and living standards of Canadians?

Sincerely,

  
**JOSEPH MALONEY**  
International Vice President

