



MEMORANDUM

Date: November 29, 2010

To: Workplace Stewards

From: Karen Cox, Political Action Chair
Tim Cunningham, President

Re: **Political Action Committee's Holiday Ethical Shopping List**

As the season of giving approaches, why not consider giving a gift that keeps on giving - one that gives back to communities, to the earth and to the world?

Many products we tend to buy can actually have a negative effect on people in other parts of the world. The clothes and sports equipment we buy are often made in factories in Asia and Latin America that violate labour laws, use child labour, and forbid the formation of unions. Often, toy and cosmetic factories use practices that are environmentally unsustainable, including animal-testing and the dumping of toxic residues into the environment. Popular holiday foods – especially chocolate, tea, and coffee, are often grown in plantations that exploit farmers and promote environmentally unsound practices.

Why not make this season's giving an ethical one? To assist you, the Political Action Committee has started a list of ideas that are by no means exhaustive, but might nevertheless give you the perfect gift idea! Your friends and family will appreciate the thought and care that went into choosing a gift that is ethical and sustainable; you can even use it as an opportunity to teach your children about global issues and social responsibility. Please post.

Thank you for your assistance.

Ethical Holiday Shopping List

Please note that this list is in no way exhaustive. ***The companies listed are suggestions or ideas, and are not being endorsed or promoted by PETL.*** Many other alternatives exist and can be researched through internet searches. www.transfair.ca and www.ethiquette.ca provide Canadian consumers with information and links to many companies that sell labour-friendly and/or sweat-free products.

Toys	
www.netscanada.ca	Neighbourhood Toy Stores of Canada are small, independent companies that often have extensive knowledge of the toys and where they come from
www.Ape2zebra.com	Canadian toy store based in Calgary that sells German-made eco-friendly and organic toys
www.tenthousandvillages.com	Ten Thousand Villages sells many fair-trade, eco-friendly toys made by communities in the developing world
www.safetysuperstore.com	The Safety Super Store sells a wide selection of organic and eco-friendly baby and infant toys and clothing
Cards	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Consider making your own cards – perhaps even out of recycled seasonal cards from last year!</i> • <i>Look for handmade, locally crafted cards at craft sales</i> 	
http://www.botanicalpaperworks.com/	Botanical Paperworks, based out of Winnipeg, sells plantable cards made of hand-made paper. Greetings cards can be planted directly and grown into spruce trees (also available at www.grassrootsstore.com)
http://syracuseculturalworkers.com/	Syracuse Cultural Workers cooperative, based in the USA, sell cooperative made multicultural and social justice oriented cards, postcards and calendars
Cosmetics	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Look for products that are not tested on animals</i> • <i>Look for products that are biodegradable and use organic ingredients</i> • <i>Organic cosmetics are widely available in Health Food stores, and increasingly more often in major drug and department stores</i> 	

www.caringconsumer.com	PETA publishes an extensive and comprehensive list of cosmetic companies that do not test on animals
www.thebodyshop.ca	The Body Shop continues to sell community-trade, environmentally-friendly products that are cruelty-free
Sports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Did you know that sport equipment is often manufactured in the developing world, often in factories using child-labour?</i> 	
http://retail.fairtradesports.amazonwebs.com/	Fair Trade Sports (USA-based) sells soccer balls, basket balls and footballs that are certified Fair Trade and eco-friendly.
Magazines and Books <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Consider educational and independent magazine subscriptions</i> 	
www.cangeo.ca	Canadian Geographic
www.greenteacher.com	Green Teacher, based in Toronto
www.newint.org	The New Internationalist, a global affairs magazine dedicated to stories from the South
www.life.ca	Natural Life Magazine – natural family living, based in Canada
www.skippingstones.org	USA-based, a small independent multicultural magazine for children
www.walrusmagazine.com	Current Events, Canadian politics and the Environment – from an Independent Canadian perspective
Food and Hosting	
www.commerceequitable.com	Chocolate, coffee, tea, dried fruits and gift baskets available at Equita
www.organicfair.com	Based in BC, sells fair trade, organic gourmet chocolate
http://www.somachocolate.com/	SOMA Chocolate Maker is based in the Distillery District in Toronto and makes handmade, artisan chocolates using mostly fair trade, 100% organic chocolate from various producing regions
www.cocoacamino.com	Fair Trade Chocolate (including baking

	chocolate)
www.tenthousandvillages.com	Ten Thousand Villages sells organic, certified Fair Trade chocolate, coffee, tea, dried fruits, spices, nuts, sugar and other baking supplies – consider baking with fair trade ingredients for your cookie exchange, bake sale or party
www.ecoflora.ca	Need a host(ess) gift? Try Eco Flora for fair trade, organic and/or wildcrafted flowers, delivered throughout the GTA
	Consider an organic, free-range turkey or goose for your holiday meal from your local family-run organic grocer or butcher
Clothing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Look for clothing that is union-made</i> • <i>Give preference to Made in Canada labels</i> • <i>Consider organic cotton/fabrics, especially for children and babies</i> 	
www.metowestyle.com	Check out the Me to We Clothing Store for a full line of sweat-free men's, women's and children's clothing
www.lilidom.com	Lilidom, based in Quebec, sells fair trade children's clothing
www.oom.ca	Oom Ethikware sells fair trade, organic designs for men, women and children
Did you know that all GAP jeans bearing the label 'Made in Canada' are made of organic cotton, in a fully unionized factory in Quebec?	

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