

## Handout # 11a: Would You Believe...?

Read the statistics. Which globalization facts do you find the most interesting? Why?

- In 2010, New Westminster becomes the first city in Canada to adopt a living wage policy.i
- British Columbia has the lowest start work age (child labour age) in North America.ii
- Canadian companies that have used the temporary foreign workers program, designed to allow employers to hire migrant workers for jobs where skilled Canadian workers are not available: Tim Hortons, Girl Guides of Canada, and CBCs Hockey Night in Canada. iii
- Average Bangladeshi garment factory worker wage in 2013: less than \$43 a month.iv
- In 2008, almost half the world's people lived on less than \$2.50/dayv
- A generic \$14 polo shirt made in Bangladesh actually costs a retailer only \$5.67. Workers see just 12 cents a shirt. That's about half of what a Chinese worker makes. For that shirt, the factory owners will earn 58 cents, almost five times a worker's wage. <sup>vi</sup>
- 1,127 was the final death toll from the Rana Plaza garment factory collapse in Bangladesh.
- In 2010, one third of all the private wealth was owned by the world's richest .0001% of the population.vii
- The richest country on earth has the widest gap between the rich and poor of any industrial nation. viii
- Unionized women in Canada earn 39 per cent more in wages than women who are not in a union, are twice as likely to have pensions, are 25 per cent more likely to have paid sick leave, have 11 days more vacation and paid holidays, and have additional legal rights, stronger job security and access to professional representation ix
- The pay gap in Canada between non-union women and men stands at 75%. The pay gap between unionized women and unionized men stands at 93%. <sup>x</sup>
- In 1998: the US spent 8 billion dollars on cosmetics, Europe spent 11 billion on ice cream, Japan spent 35 billion on business entertainment, the world spent 400 billion on narcotics, and the world spent 780 billion on war.xi
- In 1998, it would have cost 6 billion to get free primary schooling for all the kids in the world, 9 billion for water and sanitation for everyone in the world, 12 billion for reproductive health for all women in the world, and 13 billion for health and nutrition for all the world's people.xii

- The 10 largest transnational corporations have total income greater than that of the 100 poorest countries.<sup>xiii</sup>
- Average trade tariff on imported manufactured goods in 1947: 47. %. In 1980: 6%. In 1997, less than 3%. <sup>xiv</sup>
- 1995: the number of messages sent by email in the US exceeded those sent by post for the first time.<sup>xv</sup>
- 6 corporations controlled 91% of the worlds recorded music business in 1997.<sup>xvi</sup>
- 6.6 million is the average compensation for Canada's top 100 CEOs. Of Canada's top earning 100 CEO s, 0 were women in 2009.<sup>xvii</sup>
- Single moms in Canada have a net worth of only about \$17,000, while single dads have about \$80,000. <sup>xviii</sup>
- The global number of child labourers stands at 215 million, only seven million less than in 2004<sup>xix</sup>
- In 2012, Wal-Mart was the largest private employer in the world. <sup>.xx</sup>

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- <sup>i</sup> “Minimum vs Living Wage”, Hennessy's Index: A number is never just a number. <http://www.policyalternatives.ca/publications/commentary/hennessys-index-number-never-just-number-3#sthash.cWOKPbwj.dpuf> In April 2010 the City of New Westminster took steps to guarantee that all city employees and all hired by city contractors were paid at least \$18.17 an hour, the living wage figure promoted by unions and the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.
  - <sup>ii</sup> “BC now has lowest child labour standards in North America”, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, March 4, 2004, <http://internationalization/newsroom/news-releases/bc-now-has-lowest-child-labour-standards-north-america#sthash.1y762Klt.dpuf>
  - <sup>iii</sup> “The long list of Canadian firms that have sought temporary foreign workers”, Grant Robertson et al, The Globe and Mail, Friday April 26, 2013. <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/economy/jobs/the-long-list-of-canadian-firms-that-have-sought-temporary-foreign-workers/article11113782/?page=all>
  - <sup>iv</sup> “Hope fades for trapped workers”, by Pinaki Roy, The Globe and Mail Friday April 26, 2013, News A6-7.
  - <sup>v</sup> “Poverty Facts and Stats”, by Anup Shah, Global Issues: Social, Political, Economic and Environmental Issues that Affect Us All. [www.globalissues.org](http://www.globalissues.org), retrieved July 22, 2013
  - <sup>vi</sup> “What does that \$14 shirt really cost? Bangladesh disaster raises tough questions about cheap clothes”, by Rosemary Westwood on Wednesday, May 1, 2013, MacLean's, <http://www2.macleans.ca/2013/05/01/what-does-that-14-shirt-really-cost/>
  - <sup>vii</sup> “Poverty Facts and Stats”, by Anup Shah, Global Issues: Social, Political, Economic and Environmental Issues that Affect Us All. [www.globalissues.org](http://www.globalissues.org), retrieved July 22, 2013
  - <sup>viii</sup> “Poverty Facts and Stats”, by Anup Shah, Global Issues: Social, Political, Economic and Environmental Issues that Affect Us All. [www.globalissues.org](http://www.globalissues.org), retrieved July 22, 2013
  - <sup>ix</sup> Canadian women benefit from the union advantage, CUPE 50, Mar 8, 2012 12:29 PM <http://cupe.ca/women/canadian-women-benefit-union-advantage>
  - <sup>x</sup> “Women in the workforce: still a long way from equality”, Canadian Labour Congress, [onceandforall.ca](http://onceandforall.ca)
  - <sup>xi</sup> “Poverty Facts and Stats”, by Anup Shah, Global Issues: Social, Political, Economic and Environmental Issues that Affect Us All. [www.globalissues.org](http://www.globalissues.org), retrieved July 22, 2013. And that's before Iraq and Afghanistan!
  - <sup>xii</sup> “Poverty Facts and Stats”, by Anup Shah, Global Issues: Social, Political, Economic and Environmental Issues

- that Affect Us All. [www.globalissues.org](http://www.globalissues.org), retrieved July 22, 2013
- xiii “The facts about globalization, including the winners and losers of GATT and details about which corporations make more money than which countries”, New Internationalist, [www.newint.org/features/1997/11/05/facts/](http://www.newint.org/features/1997/11/05/facts/)  
This data is from 1997, so already quite outdated.
- xiv ““The facts about globalization, including the winners and losers of GATT and details about which corporations make more money than which countries”, New Internationalist, [www.newint.org/features/1997/11/05/facts/](http://www.newint.org/features/1997/11/05/facts/)  
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This data is from 1997, so already quite outdated.
- xvii Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, Hennessy's Index, Canada by the Numbers  
<http://www.policyalternatives.ca/index>
- xviii The Facts About Women and Poverty, Canadian Women’s Foundation, <http://www.canadianwomen.org/facts-aboutpoverty#15>
- xix “Facts on Child Labour 2010”, International Labour Organization,  
[http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@dgreports/@dcomm/documents/publication/wcms\\_126685.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@dgreports/@dcomm/documents/publication/wcms_126685.pdf)
- xx Which is the world's biggest employer? By Ruth Alexander BBC News, <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-17429786>, accessed August 1, 2013