

Council Motion Sheet / Avis de motion au Conseil

13. (b) (2019-05)



- **Agenda item # 13. (b) / N° 13. (b)** du point de l'ordre du jour
- **Moved by / Proposée par - OPSEU**
- **Seconded by / Appuyée par -**
- **Motion text / Libellé de la motion**

WHEREAS the country of Venezuela is experiencing an economic and constitutional crisis in which opposition forces are attempting to overthrow the democratically elected government of Nicolas Maduro, and

WHEREAS the United States and its allies have a long-standing policy of regime change against the democratically elected leaders of Venezuela, including supporting a coup attempt against Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez in 2002, and including supporting the coup attempt against current Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, and

WHEREAS since 2017 the Canadian government has imposed several rounds of sanctions against Nicolas Maduro and other members of his government, with the United Nations Human Rights Council determining these sanctions to be "blatant violations of the most fundamental rules of International Law", and WHEREAS representatives from the Canadian and U.S. governments have indicated that increased access to Venezuela's oil resources is a driving force behind their support for regime change, and

WHEREAS since 2017 Canada has been active in the Lima Group of Latin American states that are opposed to the democratically-elected government of Venezuela, and that are supportive of its overthrow, and

WHEREAS open letters by 70 prominent U.S. academics and Latin American specialists, and by 50 prominent international NGOs and human rights agencies, have called for cessation of hostilities by the United States, Canada, and their allies against the democratically elected government of Venezuela, and

WHEREAS the rule of International Law, the sovereignty of states, and the upholding of democratic process are the foundations of human rights, and

WHEREAS CAUT has long demonstrated a commitment to supporting international human rights, and

WHEREAS a culture of critical post-secondary education and academic freedom in Venezuela depends on protecting human rights and the democratic process in that country,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT,

CAUT release a public statement that:

- condemns the Canadian government for its support for illegal regime-change in Venezuela
- calls for an immediate end to Canada's participation in the Lima Group
- calls for an immediate end to the illegal sanctions the Canadian government has enacted against Venezuela, and
- calls for Canada to use its influence to seek a peaceful resolution to Venezuela's crisis that upholds the rule of International Law and respects Venezuela's indigenous democratic and constitutional processes.