



ONTARIO FEDERATION OF LABOUR

11TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION

TORONTO, ONTARIO • NOVEMBER 21-25, 2011



Convention rally takes on BMO and Bay Street's 'corporate vipers': Photo: Peter Boyle

OFL 2011 CONVENTION
DAILY REPORT
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POST EVICTION, OCCUPY SPIRIT THRIVES

For the third time, convention was adjourned so that delegates could take their anti-austerity message to the streets, in solidarity with the Occupy movement. One day after Occupy Toronto was evicted by Mayor Ford and their tents were dismantled, delegates were joined by Occupy activists in a march through Toronto's financial district. The OFL funded transportation for Occupy activists from Hamilton, Kingston, London, Ottawa and St. Thomas to attend the rally and meet in the first Occupy Ontario general assembly.

The rally focused on corporate crooks on Bay Street and targetted the Bank of Montreal, in particular, for bankrolling the despicable Infinity Rubber, which has kept their workers out on strike for 22 months.

OFL TO HOST NON-VIOLENT CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE TRAINING

Mary Long from the Hamilton and District Labour Council motivated a motion to develop worker training in non-violent, civil disobedience tactics. The motion was inspired by the Occupy movement and a growing appetite for a more militant campaign to fight the austerity agenda. "Non-violent civil disobedience has a proud tradition that is not foreign to the labour movement," said Long. "It is time for strategic action. We are not out to be martyrs but to create change."



JACK LAYTON REMEMBERED AND OLIVIA CHOW RECOGNIZED

Former NDP Leader Jack Layton was remembered at the OFL Convention. After a moving memorial video, produced by CUPE National, the assembly gave a standing ovation to honour Jack and his dedicated defence of social justice and trade unionism. Jack’s memory was honoured by the Convention through the passing of a resolution to create a physical memorial to pay tribute to the values that Jack championed.

“Conservatives saw it as an insult, but Jack was always proud of being called ‘Union Jack,’” said Chow. “Thank you to the

OFL and to all of you for supporting Jack Layton and the New Democrats. Though his voice may be silenced, he has passed on the torch to each one of you. We will not be silent!”

After her remarks, Kathy Schulz (CUPE 2484) awarded Chow with a “Child Care Champions” award and motivated a motion to make this a permanent award in Chow’s name. “We have witnessed Olivia’s commitment to child care workers, and to children and families,” said Schulz. “We will keep up the fight for Olivia’s child care legislation until it finally becomes law.”

NEW EXECUTIVE BOARD SWORN IN

The new Executive Board was sworn in by CLC Ontario Regional Director Chris Macdonald. After taking their collective oath, the new team is ready to start mobilizing resistance to the austerity agenda.



CLC’s Chris MacDonald and the new Executive. Photo: Peter Boyle

GETTING DOWN TO BUSINESS

The fourth day of Convention was a very productive one, with the full debate and passing of the Retirement Security policy paper, as well as amendments to the Austerity and Diversity policy papers. In addition, more motions were passed than any other day.

RESOLUTIONS CORNER

The following resolutions were passed on the Convention floor: **01 (Collective Bargaining/ Back-to-Work Legislation)**, **15 (Plant Closure Legislation)**, **20 (Canada-Europe Trade Agreement)**, **21 (Climate Change and 350ppm Resolution)**, **23 (Extensions of Medical Benefits)**, **46 (Non-Violent Civil Disobedience)**, **52 (Olivia Chow Child Care Champion Award)** and **78 (Honouring Jack Layton)**.