



P.11 #EDUCATION WORKERSMATTER



P.3 SID RYAN PLANS DEPARTURE



P.8 NDP LEADS LABOUR DAY PARADE IN TORONTO

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

ONTARIO FEDERATION OF LABOUR



FALL 2015

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 4



There is a **BETTER CHOICE**

voteNDP

**OFL CONVENTION
NOV. 23-27
P.12**

MEET THE OFL OFFICERS

President



Patrick "Sid" Ryan

Secretary-Treasurer



Nancy Hutchison

Executive Vice-President



Irwin Nanda

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT
ONTARIO FEDERATION OF LABOUR**

The Ontario Federation of Labour represents 54 unions and one million workers. It is Canada's largest provincial labour federation.

Volume 5, Issue 4 of the **OFL President's Report** was produced for the September 29, 2015 meeting of the Executive Board of the Ontario Federation of Labour.

Editor-in-Chief/Writing/Design/Layout: Joel Duff

**Ontario Federation of Labour (OFL)
Fédération du travail de l'Ontario (FTO)**

15 Gervais Drive, Suite 202
Toronto, Ontario M3C 1Y8

416-441-2731 • 1-800-668-9138
TDD: 416-443-6305 • FAX: 416-441-1893

info@ofl.ca



This document was proudly produced with unionized labour: JD/ph:cope343

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT
ONTARIO FEDERATION OF LABOUR**

**VOL. 5 NO. 4
FALL 2015**



P.8 NDP HEADLINES LABOUR DAY IN TORONTO

PHOTO: JOEL DUFF

OFL NEWS

Open Letter: Sid Ryan Announces His Departure 3
 Labour & Human Rights Dates 14
 Upcoming Events 15
 OFL & AIL Canada Award Jack Layton Labour Post-Secondary Scholarships for 2015 15
 ODRT Worker's Compensation Training Series 2015 (October 25-30) 16

SPECIAL FEATURE: FEDERAL ELECTION 2015

ON THE COVER: OFL Endorses Tom Mulcair's NDP 4
 Harper's Economic Record is the Worst in Canada's Post-War History 6
 Three Ridings Riding on the Orange Wave 7
CENTRE SPREAD: Labour Shows Its Solidarity at Labour Day and Toronto Pride Parades 8
 OFL Labour Day Op-Ed: Harper Leaves Future Generations Behind 10

OFL CONVENTION 2015

Demanding the Ontario We Want: OFL Convention to Chart a New Course (Nov. 23-27) 12
 Workers of Colour Symposium Takes Collective Approach to Racism (Nov. 21) 13
 Young Workers' Assembly Puts Focus on Organizing Precarious Workers (Nov. 21-22) 13

ONTARIO POLITICS

Ontario Elementary Teachers and Support Staff Begin "Work-to-Rule" 11
 Campaign to "Keep Hydro Public" Vows to Stop Sale of Hydro One 11

EQUALITY & HUMAN RIGHTS

Labour Responds to the Syrian Refugee Crisis 14

OFL Labour Day messages featured in special supplement to the Toronto Star **P.10** and in five Sun Media newspapers.



SID RYAN ANNOUNCES HE WILL NOT SEEK RE-ELECTION

September 28, 2015

Sisters and Brothers,



I am writing to you – the activists and the grassroots of the labour movement – to announce that I will not be seeking re-election as President of the Ontario Federation of Labour. What I do next, what issues I champion, what challenges I tackle, has yet to be determined, but I will not be leading Ontario’s House of Labour.

I am addressing you openly because you are the heart and soul of the labour movement. It is your interests I have championed throughout my career as a union leader and I want you to hear from me personally. If there is one thing that both my strongest supporters and my harshest critics agree on, it is that in mobilizing workers I have often spoken over the heads of labour leaders to reach union members directly. It is a critique that I wear with pride.

I have had the privilege of serving Ontario workers for nearly a quarter century – 17 years at the helm of CUPE Ontario and the past six years as President of the OFL. At no point in my career have I made life easy or comfortable for the powerful. I have refused to compromise progressive principles for political expediency. I have preferred to wage the working class fight – both inside and outside our movement – on the ground with the members. Our movement is always strongest when it is bold, transparent and principled.

These convictions have guided me in taking some controversial stances during my career. When I lead CUPE Ontario into unequivocal solidarity with the right to a free Palestine, when I called for negligent employers to go to jail over workplace fatalities and when I denounced police violence and racism, I put my reputation behind my convictions. When the circumstances required it, I put partisanship aside to defeat Conservative Leader Tim Hudak, just as today I am calling on every worker, in every riding, to make Thomas Mulcair the next Prime Minister of Canada. I have always believed that good leaders are not afraid to lead and no activist worth their salt can create meaningful change without ruffling a few feathers.

It is no mystery that, along the way, I have accumulated some critics (you may have heard from a few in the pages of the Toronto Star), but union members are unmistakably united. I have been elected unanimously three times as OFL President and union members have repeatedly given me a mandate to put equity, community and action at the heart of everything we do. Together, we put 10,000 people on the streets of Hamilton in support of steelworkers, 15,000 in London in support of autoworkers, 30,000 in Toronto in support of school teachers and support staff and we rallied for workplace rights in every region of Ontario. We have built an unprecedented labour-community alliance of over 90 groups that began the pushback against Rob Ford’s privatization agenda, challenged McGuinty’s austerity cuts, and catapulted inequality into the media.

The enthusiastic response that I have received from union members, precarious workers and equity seekers across the province has been a powerful validation of the unity and solidarity at the core of our movement. It gives me hope that the labour movement is as vibrant and relevant as ever and, with the rise of precarious work, migrant labour and governments who put corporate interests ahead of the public interest, the need has never been greater.

However, any movement is bigger than any one person.

Some of the labour leaders who have opposed me have said that they share my values but they can’t unite behind my leadership.

Today, I am issuing a challenge to these labour leaders to live up to their words: build an open and progressive labour movement that puts equity and social justice at its core, even when doing the right thing is unpopular.

And to the union membership, I give the biggest responsibility: hold your elected leadership to the task, demand openness and transparency, call for equity and inclusion and, above all, give them the confidence to take strident stances.

After all, none of us can accomplish a better future unless all of us believes that a better future is possible.

In solidarity,

Sid Ryan
Sid Ryan, President of the Ontario Federation of Labour

Sign up for the OFL’s new e-blast updates by texting the word “OFL” to **647-496-5602**



Follow & Retweet the OFL on Twitter at: **@OFLabour** and **@SidRyan_OFL**



OFL Endorses Tom Mulcair's NDP

Canadians are in the midst of the longest federal election campaign in many decades, but Labour Day marked the mid-way point on the road to the October 19 election and it was also the moment that each party kicked their campaign into high gear. To mark the occasion, OFL led the weekend with a bold media announcement that it would be throwing its full and unequivocal support behind Thomas Mulcair's bid to become the first NDP Prime Minister in Canada's history.

OFL President Sid Ryan called on Ontario's 54 labour unions and over one million unionized workers to volunteer their time for NDP candidates in every riding across Ontario.

"Now is not the time to divide the strength of the labour movement by sending out confusing messages about who should be the next Prime Minister of Canada," said Ryan. "There is only one leader and one party that can clean up nine years of Conservative corruption and economic mismanagement and that is Thomas Mulcair and the federal NDP."

While Harper has been in office, income inequality has deepened, wages have stagnated and new job creation is slower than any period since World War II. The damage Harper has done to Canadian families, the environment and Can-

ada's international reputation is incalculable but the defining issue of Harper's last term was the introduction of the dangerous and undemocratic Bill C51.

“There is one leader and one party that can clean up nine years of Conservative corruption and economic mismanagement and that is Thomas Mulcair and the federal NDP.”

- OFL President Sid Ryan

"When Justin Trudeau was called upon to take a stand against Harper's attack on the fundamental rights of Canadians, his principles failed him and his party cast their votes with the Harper Conservatives. Trudeau proved that he doesn't have what it takes to lead Canada," said Ryan, "Only Thomas Mulcair had the courage and the conviction to oppose Bill C51 and defend the rights and values of Canadians. If ever there was a party platform that clearly speaks to the interests of working people and their families and provides a balanced plan for shared

prosperity, it is the one that Thomas Mulcair has presented to Canadians."

Among the many popular commitments the NDP have promised are:

- Creating full-time, middle-class jobs;
- Creating one million childcare spaces capped at \$15 a day;
- Expanding the Canada Pension Plan so no one retires into poverty;
- Expanding Canada's medicare system to cover prescription drugs;
- Reversing health transfer cuts;
- Cutting emissions and tackling climate change;
- Repealing Bill C51; and
- Launching a national inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women.

"The OFL helped to drive Ontario Conservative Leader Tim Hudak out of politics in 2014 and we are convinced that a labour movement united behind Thomas Mulcair can deliver the same fate to Stephen Harper," said Ryan. "There is no doubt that voters in 'Battleground Ontario' will make or break the Harper government, but I predict that it will be union activists who tip the scales and help Thomas Mulcair make history by forming Canada's first NDP government."



OFL President Sid Ryan uses the Toronto Labour Day Parade to publicly demonstrate OFL support for Tom Mulcair and Canada's NDP.

INSET: OFL launches social media support for Canada's NDP. See the next page for more about the boots-on-the-ground campaign to support strong NDP challengers in key Tory ridings across Ontario.

Imagine a national prescription drug plan. Imagine change.

There is a **BETTER CHOICE** CA
voteNDP

October 19, 2015
 #TimeForChange

This time, let's vote FOR rights, not AGAINST them!

There is a **BETTER CHOICE** CA
voteNDP

October 19, 2015
 #TimeForChange

Feeling the squeeze of precarious work?

There is a **BETTER CHOICE** CA
voteNDP

October 19, 2015
 #TimeForChange

PHOTO AND GRAPHICS: JOEL DUFF

HARPER'S ECONOMIC RECORD IS THE WORST IN CANADA'S POST-WAR HISTORY

With Canada slipping into another recession, Unifor released comprehensive new review of the economic record of Stephen Harper's Conservative government that paints a damning portrait of nearly a decade of economic failure.

"Rhetoric and Reality: Evaluating Canada's Economic Record Under the Harper Government," authored by Unifor Economists Jim Stanford and Jordan Brennan, tracks the performance of nine federal governments from 1946 through 2014.

"Canada's economy has never performed worse, since the end of World War II, than under the present Conservative government. The Harper government ranks last among the nine post-war governments, and by a wide margin – falling well behind the second worst government, which was the Mulroney government of 1984-93."

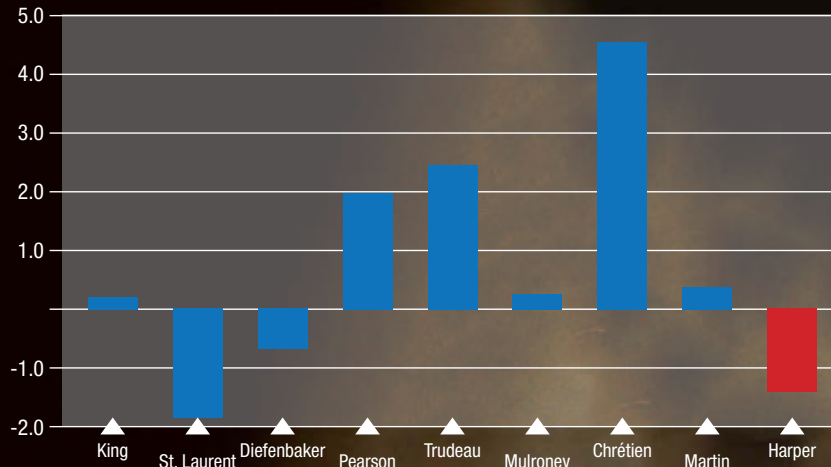
The report also shows that the poor economic results of the Stephen Harper Conservative government cannot be blamed on the 2008-09 recession – Canada experienced a total of 10 recessions since 1946, with some Prime Ministers contending with more than one during their tenures. The recovery from the 2008-09 downturn has been the weakest of any recovery since 1946.

Stanford and Brennan compare annual data from Statistics Canada and other publicly available sources regarding 16 key conventionally used indicators of economic progress and well-being. These indicators include:

- **Work:** Job-creation, employment rate, unemployment rate, labour force participation, youth employment, and job quality;
- **Production:** Real GDP growth (absolute and per capita), business investment, exports, and productivity growth; and
- **Distribution and Debt:** Real personal incomes, inequality, federal public services, personal debt, and government debt.

For 13 of the 16 indicators, the Stephen Harper Conservative government ranks last or second last among all postwar Prime Ministers. And its average ranking across all 16 indicators is by far the worst.

CHANGE IN EMPLOYMENT RATE (% POINTS)



Even internationally, Canada ranks much more poorly than previously claimed. Canada's economy falls in the lower half of all OECD countries under the Harper government, according to population-adjusted indicators of job-creation and GDP growth.

"Given the negative growth data recorded so far for 2015, Canada's standing among industrial countries will slip further this year.

"Prime Minister Harper's claim that Canada's economy is 'the envy of the entire world' is sharply at odds with the international data."

To read the report: http://www.unifor.org/sites/default/files/documents/document/909-harper_economic_critique_eng_0.pdf

“Canada's economy has never performed worse ... than under the present Conservative government.”

- Unifor Report



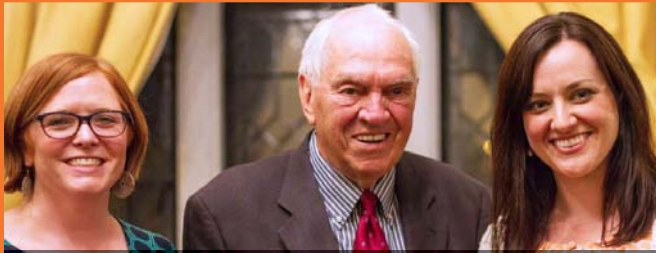
OSHAWA

Long a bastion for progressive politics, the newly aligned riding of Oshawa, is back to the boundaries that sent Ed Broadbent to Ottawa as their Member of Parliament from 1968-1990.

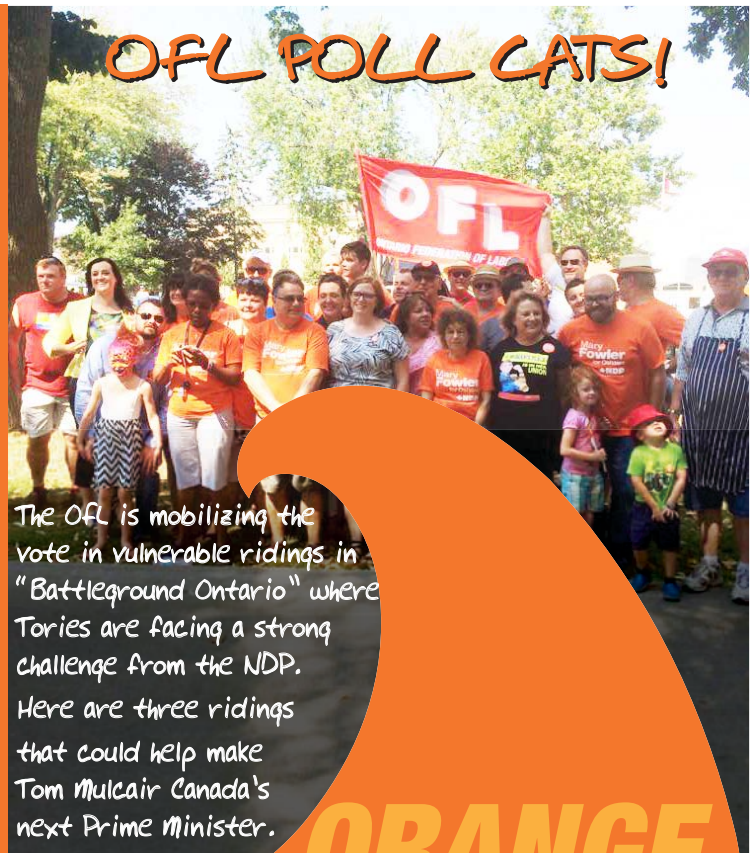
The federal riding of Oshawa has been “Tory Blue” since 2004, but constituents will not be “conned” into re-electing incumbent Colin Carrie on October 19.

Mary Fowler – an ETFO union member, labour council activist, and educator – is poised to return Oshawa to the NDP and she has a team of dedicated labour activists at her side to make it happen.

Following the trail blazed by MPP Jennifer French in the 2014 provincial election, Mary Fowler has what it takes to replicate Jennifer’s success. If anyone can paint Oshawa orange yet again, it is Mary.



Oshawa Candidate Mary Fowler joined by NDP stalwart Ed Broadbent and NDP MPP Jennifer French.



The OFL is mobilizing the vote in vulnerable ridings in “Battleground Ontario” where Tories are facing a strong challenge from the NDP. Here are three ridings that could help make Tom Mulcair Canada’s next Prime Minister.

ORANGE WAVE

THREE RIDINGS RIDING ON THE

BRAMPTON EAST

The passion, energy and optimism of this diverse suburban community is aligning behind NDP candidate Harbaljit Singh Khalon and his biggest champion, suave NDP MPP Jagmeet Singh. Jagmeet ran in the 2011 federal election as the NDP candidate in the riding of Bramalea—Gore—Malton and lost to Conservative candidate Bal Gosal by only 539 votes. But that campaign gave him the momentum he needed to take the riding in the next provincial election. Jagmeet and his team of young activists are firmly behind Harbaljit and are poised to make inroads in the newly aligned federal riding of Brampton East.

Harbaljit Singh Khalon is our pick to stop Stephen Harper. This will surely be a close race, but Brampton East is ready for change.

All indicators suggest that the NDP are ready to add Brampton East to the NDP column on October 19.



NDP MPP Jagmeet Singh and federal leader Tom Mulcair put their support behind Brampton’s Harbaljit Singh Khalon.

NIAGARA FALLS

City Councillor and former longtime Liberal supporter Carolynn Ioannoni shook up her riding this summer when she was nominated as the NDP candidate for Niagara Falls. Carolynn said her frustrations began with the Wynne government over recent scandals and health-care cuts, but were crystallized when Justin Trudeau supported Stephen Harper’s controversial anti-terrorism bill, which she said “stomps on so many privacy and human rights issues.”

Like Oshawa, this riding has traditionally leaned Conservative but was snatched away by the Ontario NDP last year by a strong candidate with background of labour activism.

Carolynn has the chops to build on the success of NDP MPP Wayne Gates to snatch this key seat from the Harper Conservatives.

“Everywhere I go, I’m hearing, ‘It’s time for change, time for change, time for change,’” said Carolynn. Indeed it is!



Carolynn Ioannoni is one to watch!



LABOUR

Thomas Mulcair and Canada's NDP were joined by Irwin Nanda, Sid Ryan, Hassan Yussuff and other prominent labour leaders at the head of the 2015 Toronto Labour Day Parade. Leading the union contingent was CUPW, with their campaign to "Save Door-to-Door."



LGBTQ Pride events, parades and barbecues took place across Ontario this summer, with strong union showing at every event. In Toronto, OFL Officers Nancy Hutchison and Irwin Nanda joined CLC officers Hassan Yussuff and Marie Clarke Walker, as well as Executive Board Members Fred Hahn and John Cartwright to show labour pride.

PRIDE!



LABOUR DAY PHOTOS: JOEL DUFF; PRIDE PHOTOS: CRAIG SAUNDERS



OFL'S LABOUR DAY OP-ED



OPINION COLUMNISTS

Monday, September 7, 2015

Harper leaves future generations behind

SID RYAN

Every generation of parents, from Canada's First Peoples through each wave of immigration since, have trusted that hard work would deliver a brighter future and improved fortunes for their children and their grandchildren.

However, despite record levels of education, today's youth will become first generation in history to expect a lower standard of living than their parents.

For most of the last century, high school students could expect to graduate into well-paid jobs in manufacturing or other sectors that allowed them to buy a home, support a family and join the middle class.

Their counterparts today are graduating from college or university with unprecedented levels of student debt only to wind up wallowing in low-paying service jobs that offer no security, limited benefits and little room for advancement.

Over nearly a decade in office, the Harper Conservatives have engineered a dramatic reversal of fortune across Canada that is driving down wages and threatening to leave future generations behind.

For the first time since the 1950s, employment rates have dropped and new job creation has hit the skids.

Even in Canada's economic epicenter, barely 50 percent of workers can take comfort in full-time, permanent jobs.

For the country's labour unions, this alarming workforce transformation is triggering a profound re-imagining of the labour movement. We are confronting the harsh reality that declining union density and an increasingly precarious workforce are dragging down wages and benefits faster than union standards can pull them up.

Unions can no longer respond through self-preservation at the expense of other workers. A truly universal labour movement requires a bottom-up approach to worker action that is driven by a movement of all working people, the unemployed, the precariously employed, the retired and the many diverse communities who are being marginalized within today's economy.

Those who are fed up with corruption in Ottawa, blanket support for corporate Canada and an inexcusable indifference to inequality are seeing the NDP as the better choice.

The Ontario Federation of Labour, which has historically only given voice to unionized workers, is now partnering with diverse and vulnerable communities to mount a vigorous defence for the rights and interests of every worker.

For Canada's voters, the façade of the Conservative economic restructuring has crumbled away. A falling Canadian dollar, plummeting oil prices and the recent backslide into a second recession give the lie to the Conservative claim to be sound fiscal managers.

However, for many Canadians, it is the deepening income inequality, wage stagnation and cuts to social programs that are causing voters to look for a more balanced road to shared prosperity.

When Albertans went to the polls last spring in Canada's Conservative heartland, the result was the punishing defeat of a 40-year-old Conservative Dynasty and an unprecedented mandate for the Alberta New Democratic Party.

Alberta NDP Leader Rachel Notley campaigned on a bold commitment to corporate tax fairness, the environment and a \$15 minimum wage – the same hallmarks of Thomas Mulcair's platform for Canada's NDP.

What was mistaken at first as simply an Alberta election upset, is looking more and more like a federal forecast. Those who are fed up with corruption in Ottawa, blanket support for corporate Canada and an inexcusable indifference to inequality are seeing the NDP as the better choice.

Around barbecues and campfires across the country, Canadians may be inclined to spend this Labour Day weekend lamenting the end of summer but there is also cause to look optimistically towards the future. The federal election on October 19 will provide and opportunity for voters to chart a new course for Canada. In the weeks and months that follow, we must work together to make the Canadian economy work for everyone.



Sid Ryan is president of the Ontario Federation of Labour

ONTARIO ELEMENTARY TEACHERS AND SUPPORT STAFF BEGIN “WORK-TO-RULE”

On September 10, 55,000 Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) school board members in Ontario began the largest legal job action in that union’s history. They included education workers in schools and board offices, in both the French and English systems, for public and Catholic Boards.

CUPE’s striking members are some of the lowest-paid workers in the public education system. The majority are women and they face layoffs each summer.

“They’ve faced years of cuts to the critical services they provide, seen inflation eat away their take-home pay because of wage freezes, and faced a government who seemed, at best, to treat their critical work as an afterthought,” said CUPE Ontario President Fred Hahn.

The school board workers began their campaign just as the 76,000 members of the Elementary Teachers’ Federation of Ontario (ETFO) stepped up their job action on the first day back to school.

ETFO rejected what it called the Liberal government’s ‘cookie-cutter’ approach to reaching a deal, saying that the government and the Ontario Public School Boards’ Association could not impose a flawed deal that is designed for other education systems and does not address the needs of public elementary students and teachers.

Both unions intend to escalate their strike ac-

tion if there is no change on the part of the government and school board.

“Premier Wynne might want a quick deal to help Mr. Trudeau’s chances in the federal election,” said ETFO President Sam Hammond, “but we actually want a deal that works for teachers and students.”



CUPE Ontario officers and staff show solidarity for striking education workers. Show your support by posting messages using the hashtag #EducationWorkersMatter.

CAMPAIGN TO “KEEP HYDRO PUBLIC” VOWS TO STOP SALE OF HYDRO ONE

A broad coalition of labour and community groups have vowed to continue efforts to stop the sale of Hydro One and hold all parties involved accountable, as the government starts the process to sell the first fifteen percent of the public utility.

“This is further evidence that Premier Wynne and the Liberal government have no interest in what anybody else thinks of this plan,” said Katrina Miller, spokesperson for the Keep Hydro Public Campaign. “Despite 83 percent of Ontarians being opposed to selling Hydro One, and municipalities, businesses, and First Nation Groups calling on the government to consult broadly before moving forward, the government is barreling ahead with a short-sighted cash grab that could have disastrous results.”

The Keep Hydro Public Campaign, involving more than 20 labour, community, environmental and student organizations, has been building opposition to the government’s plan across the province for the last four months. 140

municipalities have passed resolutions opposing the sale and, according to a recent Environics poll, public opposition has jumped 20 points.

“We are going to step up our efforts to stop this sale because everywhere we go, more people join us in calling on the government to keep hydro public,” said Miller. “Now the initial

prospectus is out, we will be reviewing all avenues to stop or delay the sale, including legal action.”

There is no question that the Wynne government is risking the federal Liberal party’s election chances, and in three years its own re-election, by proceeding with this sale.



Keep Hydro Public involves more than 20 labour, community, environmental and student groups and has been gaining momentum across Ontario for the last four months.



DEMANDING THE ONTARIO WE WANT

OFL'S 13TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION WILL CHART A NEW COURSE FOR LABOUR

The OFL will be holding its 13th Biennial Convention from November 23-27, 2015, under the aspirational banner "The Ontario We Want," but the meeting will also mark a new beginning for the labour movement.

All three OFL officers have made public their plans not to seek re-election this November, leaving the floor wide open for a renewed mandate. However, one thing is certain: whoever is elected to lead Ontario's House of Labour will have a strong foundation of activism to build on.

The Convention will also follow quickly after the October 19 federal election, so delegates will have a new political landscape to navigate, with new challenges and new opportunities.

The stakes couldn't be higher.

Ontario workers delivered a significant blow to the American-style anti-union agenda when the OFL led the defeat of the Hudak Conservatives in 2014. It may even have anointed Ontario as the only jurisdiction in North America to face down right-to-work laws ... and win.

However, this victory cannot be taken for granted. Unions across the country have been embattled on all sides by government and corporate attacks on their rights and benefits, and

cynical public opinion that has often been divided by the politics of envy. Set against a disappearing manufacturing sector, this anti-union rhetoric has only grown as density has declined and good, middle-class jobs have been replaced by precarious jobs with few benefits.

In that context, unions are being challenged to reimagine themselves beyond their immediate membership, to include all working people, the unemployed, the precariously employed, the retired and the many diverse communities who are being marginalized within today's economy.

This Convention will be an important opportunity for the membership to underscore the inclusive objective at the heart of the bold new approach to grassroots activism that has become the OFL's ethos in recent years.

For organized labour to maintain relevance and grow support, the OFL must continue to extend its work beyond the confines of Ontario workplaces. In cities and towns across Ontario, people from all walks of life must be invited to join union members in building a broad-based movement to call on governments to deliver the opportunities we need, the jobs we deserve and, indeed, to create the change we want.

It is precisely these values that led the Ontario Federation of Labour to create the Ontario Common Front – an unprecedented movement of more than 90 labour and community groups – so that, together, we can fight for all working people and protect the interests of the next generation.

This OFL Convention will, no doubt, inspire delegates to push forward on this bold agenda to mobilize a movement of all working people to fight alongside community allies for the Ontario, indeed the Canada, we want.

KEY DEADLINES & DETAILS

- Oct. 26 **Resolutions**
- Oct. 26 **Accessibility/Child Care**
- Oct. 30: **Award Nominations**
- Nov. 9: **Credentials**

Convention credentials have been issued to each Local Union's Financial Secretary.

For Convention information, please visit: www.OFL.ca/index.php/convention-2015

For Convention updates, subscribe at: <http://ofl.nationbuilder.com/oflconsignup>



CONNECTED & UNITED **SOLIDARITY AGAINST RACISM**

OFL Workers of Colour Symposium • November 21, 2015 • Toronto

Reduced registration fee: only \$100

The OFL will be hosting a Workers of Colour Symposium on Saturday, November 21 at the Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel, 123 Queen Street West, in the Civic Ballroom North.

The Symposium will address racism, discrimination, social and economic inequities in the labour movement, workplaces and our communities. During the closing plenary sessions, participants will develop an action plan, called “Creating Change.”

Register before Friday, November 13, 2015!


For more information and a full registration package, visit:

www.ofl.ca/index.php/woc-symposium-2015

OFL YOUNG WORKERS’ ASSEMBLY

*** FREE *
REGISTRATION**

**Pre-Convention Assembly
November 21-22, 2015 • Toronto**



The OFL Young Workers’ Committee will be hosting the second Young Workers’ Assembly on November 21 and 22, 2015, immediately preceding the 13th Biennial OFL Convention. This informative and instructive session is open to all young worker delegates to Convention and young worker activists. It will include a full day of educational sessions and discussion forums, followed by a morning of training for the Convention ahead.

Register before Friday, November 13, 2015!

For more information and a full registration package, visit:

www.ofl.ca/index.php/youngworkers2015

THE OFL TEAM

OFL DIRECTORS

Joel Duff, Communications Director

Vern Edwards, Health & Safety Director

Rob Halpin, Director of Research and Education

Laurie Hardwick, Organization Services Director

Carrol Anne Sceviour, Human Rights Director

Antoni Shelton, Director of Government Relations & Liaison to the President

Elizabeth Smith-VanBeek, Director of Administration

OFL & ODRT STAFF

Judy Chow, Executive Secretary (Secretary-Treasurer & Administration)

Sue Fratric, Secretary / ODRT Administrative Assistant

Paulette Hazel, Secretary

Brian Morgan, DocuTech Operator

Kathy Neumann, Executive Secretary (President and Exec. V.P.)

Ethiraju Ramachandar, Secretary / Book-keeper

Sylvia Stewart, Secretary

ODRT DIRECTORS

Colin Argyle, ODRT Director, Promotions, Supply & Services

Clarence MacPherson, ODRT Director, Operations and Communications

LABOUR & HUMAN RIGHTS DATES

| | |
|---------|--|
| Oct. 4 | Sisters In Spirit Vigils |
| Oct. 10 | World Mental Health Day |
| Oct. 17 | International Day for the Eradication of Poverty |
| Oct. 28 | Childcare and Early Childhood Educators Appreciation Day |
| Nov. 20 | International Transgender Day of Remembrance |
| Nov. 25 | International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women |
| Dec. 3 | International Day of Persons with Disabilities |
| Dec. 6 | National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women |
| Dec. 10 | International Human Rights Day |
| Dec. 18 | International Migrants Day |



LABOUR RESPONDS TO THE SYRIAN REFUGEE CRISIS

It was with horror and great disbelief as the world witnessed the image of the lifeless body of 3-year-old Alyn Kurdi, lying face down on a beach in Turkey. Perhaps the biggest tragedy is that it took the image of young Alyn to thrust the Syrian refugee crisis into the hearts and minds of all Canadians, and indeed the global conscience. After all, this crisis has been in full swing since 2011 and has claimed the lives of tens of thousands.

Labour is poised to resume its role as leaders in the humanitarian response. During the Indochinese refugee crisis in the late 1970's, it was citizen activists, religious groups, and trade unions mobilized their communities to sponsor refugees en masse. Similarly, during the late 70's early 80's, many trade union locals stepped up to sponsor thousands of Vietnamese refugees.

Collective action by grassroots activists pressured the governments of the day to ramp up their response, to follow the lead of concerned citizenry, to do what all good families do – care for our less fortunate brothers and sisters.

The OFL is partnering with various community groups, including Lifeline Syria, to encourage a movement that replicates the actions of trade union locals and concerned citizens 35 years ago.

On Wednesday, September 9, OFL President Sid Ryan met with Naomi Albiom of Lifeline Syria, to understand how organized labour can answer the call to action, and how our movement can once again show leadership by providing support for those in dire need. The OFL will be encouraging affiliates to fundraise to become sponsors for refugee families.

“We had an extremely productive meeting,” said OFL President Sid Ryan. “We discussed multiple collective action approaches that are required to bring comfort to displaced Syrian peoples. The OFL will apply political pressure on all levels of government to take action regarding this continuing crisis, and we are calling on the labour movement to rise to this challenge by sponsoring the settlement of Syrian refugees in Ontario, and indeed across our country.”



Sid Ryan delivered a keynote address for the Hope 4 Syria fundraiser in Brampton on Sept. 18, featured here with Shaila Kibria-Carter and other event organizers.

UPCOMING EVENTS

OCT. 4: SISTERS IN SPIRIT VIGILS

October 4th is a day to honour the lives of missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls. For more information visit: www.october4th.ca or select a location: <http://www.nwac.ca/policy-areas/violence-prevention-and-safety/sisters-in-spirit/october-4th-vigils>

OCT. 7: WORLD DAY FOR DECENT WORK

The International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) has declared Oct. 7, 2015 the “World Day for Decent Work.” The OFL will be working with the Workers’ Action Centre and the Campaign to Raise the Minimum Wage to organize a day of action. Stay tuned to www.OFL.ca for details.

OCT. 19: FEDERAL ELECTION

As set forth in the *Canada Elections Act*, the election for the 42nd Canadian parliament will take place on **Monday, October 19, 2015**. Stay tuned to: www.Elections.ca

NOV. 2-6: THE 27TH CUPE NATIONAL CONVENTION

The 27th CUPE National Convention will be held from November 2-6, at the Vancouver Convention Centre’s West Building in Vancouver, British Columbia. Visit: <https://cupe.ca/cupe-national-convention-2015>

NOV. 21: COALITION OF BLACK TRADE UNIONISTS ONTARIO CHAPTER (CBTU)

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE! The Coalition of Black Trade Unionists invites you to their 19th Annual Awards Dinner, Dance & Fundraiser on November 21, with the theme, “Our Lives, Our Community, Our Future.” It will be held at Le Parc Dining and Banquet Hall, 8432 Leslie St. Thornhill. To purchase tickets contact Tricia Watt: 647-333-8065 or triciawatt@rogers.com for more information visit: <http://cbtu.ca>

NOV. 21: OFL WORKERS OF COLOUR SYMPOSIUM

On November 21, the OFL will host a Workers of Colour Symposium, “Connected & United: Solidarity against Racism,” at the Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel in the Civic Ballroom North. For information, contact Paulette Hazel at 416-443-7667 or phazel@ofl.ca. Download the registration package at: <http://ofl.ca/index.php/woc-symposium-2015>

NOV. 21-22: OFL YOUNG WORKERS’ ASSEMBLY

On November 21-22, the OFL Young Workers’ Committee will be hosting the second Young Workers’ Assembly at the Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel preceding the 13th OFL Biennial Con-

vention. This Assembly is open to both community and union activists. There will be no registration fee. For information, contact Paulette Hazel at 416-443-7667 or phazel@ofl.ca. Download the registration package at: <http://ofl.ca/index.php/youngworkers2015>

NOV. 23-27: OFL 13TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION

The 13th Biennial Convention of the OFL will be held, under the aspirational banner “The Ontario We Want,” at the Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel from November 23-27, 2015.

RESOLUTIONS: Oct. 26
ACCESSIBILITY/CHILD CARE: Oct. 26
AWARD NOMINATIONS: Oct. 30
CREDENTIALS: Nov. 9

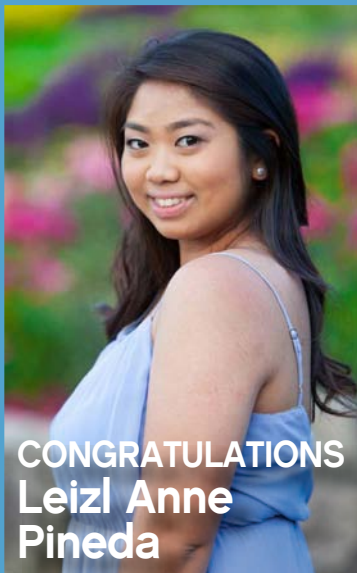
Convention credentials have been issued to each Local Union’s Financial Secretary.

For information, the full convention package, and award nomination information, please visit: www.OFL.ca/index.php/convention-2015

There will be a 2nd Biennial Cliff Pilkey Awards Dinner in the Grand Ballroom on November 26, 2015. Ticket and award information to follow. Watch for further notice.

To sign up for Convention updates, subscribe to the email list at: <http://ofl.nationbuilder.com/ofl-consignup>

OFL & AIL CANADA AWARD JACK LAYTON LABOUR POST-SECONDARY SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 2015



CONGRATULATIONS
Leizl Anne Pineda

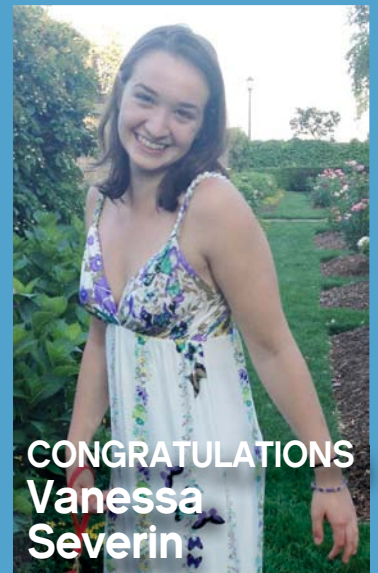
The OFL is proud to be joined in partnership by American Income Life (AIL) Canada in awarding the 2015 Jack Layton Labour Post-Secondary Scholarships to two fantastic Ontario students.

Leizl Anne Pineda, from Hamilton, will be attending University of Ottawa in the International Management Program. Her mother is a Nurse and a member of Unifor Local 504.

Vanessa Severin, from Oakville, is starting at the University of Waterloo in the Honours Arts and Business Programs. She is the daughter of a Protection & Control Technologist who works for Hydro One and is a member of CUPE Local 1000.

This year’s awards were given in the name of five retired or deceased activists who have been inducted into the OFL Labour Honour Roll:

- Brother John Ball (Peterborough and District Labour Council)
- Brother John Lewis (Durham Region Labour Council)
- Brother Ken Lewenza (UNIFOR)
- Brother James Moffat (Sheet Metal Workers)
- Sister June Veacock (OFL)



CONGRATULATIONS
Vanessa Severin

2015

Worker's Compensation Training Series
October 25 to October 30, 2015
OFL Building, 15 Gervais Drive
Toronto, Ontario M3C 1Y8

Return to Work (6 days)

Appeals & Dispute Resolution (6 days)

Compensation Essentials (5 days)

Medical Orientation (5 days)

Fee
5 day \$795
6 day \$955



Get the latest on compensation law, jurisprudence, WSIB policies and technical information.

Prepare WSIB appeals, practice dispute resolution strategies and mediation.

For further information:

Toll-Free: 1.800.668.9138

Tel: 416-441-2731

Fax: 416-441-0722

Email: suefratric@odrt.ca

Website: www.odrt.ca



Fees include all course material, guided instruction, certificate of completion and refreshments. Toronto Don Valley Hotel & Suites offers a special rate for out-of-town guests.