



We owe it to workers today and to our collective future to champion a province-wide campaign to reshape labour laws in the interest of every worker in Ontario.

*Chris Buckley
Newly Elected OFL President*



#FEDFORWARD TEAM ELECTED TO LEAD THE OFL

In a packed convention hall at Toronto's Sheraton Centre Hotel, 1539 delegates to the OFL 2015 Biennial Convention elected a new leadership team to take the helm of Ontario's house of labour. Chris Buckley (President), Patty Coates (Secretary-Treasurer) and Ahmad Gaied (Executive Vice-President) were elected to lead Ontario's house of labour.

The election marked the end of six years of bold leadership from outgoing OFL President Sid Ryan, along with Secretary-Treasurer Nancy Hutchison and Executive Vice-President Irwin Nanda. Earlier this fall, all three officers announced their intention to not seek re-election. Former Unifor Local 222 President, Chris Buckley from Oshawa was unanimously elected OFL President and Barrie and District Labour Council President Patty Coates was also elected without opposition as the OFL Secretary-Treasurer. After a three-way race for the position of OFL Executive Vice-President, Ahmad Gaied from UFCW Local 1000A was given a strong mandate to join the team of OFL Officers.

"My job is to make sure that this Federation pulls together! My goal is to unite our labour movement across Ontario and that starts with unity at YOUR OFL," incoming President Chris Buckley belted out to thunderous applause from delegates. "We owe it to workers today and to our collective future to champion a province-wide campaign to reshape labour laws in the interest of every worker in Ontario."

Coates, who hails out of OSSTF District 17, cited the current fight between Ontario's education workers, the province and school boards at a time of cuts to education as a case study in labour unity. "It is only when the fight of any worker becomes the fight of every worker that the labour movement can defend good jobs and strong public services that make our economy work for everyone."

At 33 years old, newly elected Ahmad Gaied, is the youngest officer in the 58-year history of the Ontario Federation of Labour. "I started work at a No Frills grocery store when I was 17 years old and I got my first experience with the incredible power of the union," said Gaied. "I am part of the new generation of workers who are facing the most precarious labour market in our country's history. I am committed to mobilizing youth and young workers to stop Ontario's race to the bottom."

Follow the new OFL officers on twitter: [@ChrisBuckleyOFL](#), [@Pattycoates](#) and [@AhmadGaiedOFL](#)



Watch the full the video about how the OFL stopped the Hudak Conservatives and read a detailed account of the campaign in the OFL Convention Report.

In 2014, Ontario's labour movement mobilized like never before to defeat the Tim Hudak Conservatives, who were poised to dismantle the rights of every worker in Ontario. Watch Part 2 of OFL Convention Video, that tells the story of the transformation of the OFL and the campaign that stopped Hudak.

The full convention video clocked in at 20 minutes and provided a powerful account of Ontario's reinvigorated labour movement. Stay tuned to Facebook and YouTube for daily releases of the full video ... in 5 parts.



**13TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION
NOVEMBER 23-27, 2015
TORONTO, ONTARIO**



GENDER EQUALITY SET TO POWERFUL PERFORMANCE

Detroit union activist and political performer Lynn Marie Smith delivered a passionate message that resonated through the convention hall speakers and brought delegates to their feet - in applause ... and a conga line.

Mixing speech and song in a passionate call for gender equality and activism, Smith called on delegates to "be the kind of union member that, when you wake up in the morning, the devil says 'oh crap, she's up!'"

DEBATE DOMINATES THE DAY



Unifor 5555 member Sandy Carricato spoke passionately in favour of an inquiry into missing and murdered Aboriginal Women: "The root causes of these murders is systemic racism. Unless we address that, these murders will go on."



CUPE Ontario President Fred Hahn: "The Conservative government privatized the 407, but drivers can choose another highway. But let's be clear, there is only one highway Ontarians can use to transmit hydro and that is our public agency."

RESOLUTIONS CORNER

The following resolutions were adopted by Convention:

- #13 – Income Inequality, #14 – Equity in Leadership, #15 – Reinvigorating Sisters in Spirit Solidarity Actions, #17 – Violence Against Women, #42 – Bill C-51 (covers #41), #40 – Organizing, #43 – Repeal Bill C-377, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act – Requirements for Labour Organizations, #80 – Keep Hydro Public (covers #79), #77 – Economic Development, #81 – Revenue Tools, #83 – Provincial Mass Transit Canadian Content Rules, #86 – Promoting Investment in Renewable Energy (covers #87), #93 – Support for Child Care Workers.

YUSSUFF CALLS ON OFL MEMBERS TO HOLD TRUDEAU LIBERALS TO ACCOUNT

The next four years present an opportunity to build the Canada we want, Canadian Labour Congress President Hassan Yussuff said in a sweeping speech Tuesday.

"The work you did and our movement did across the country in defeating Stephen Harper was absolutely stellar," he said.

While the outcome of the election may not have been ideal, it ended a decade of rule by a prime minister who used racism and xenophobia as an election tool,

who attacked unions and who set human rights back a decade.

An important first step is to make a fresh commitment to health care. That means reversing Harper's \$36 billion in health care cuts and inking a new national health accord. It also means creating national pharmacare. More than



11 million Canadians can't afford their prescriptions, he noted.

"No working person in a rich country like ours should have to choose between medicine and paying the rent," he said.

In the next four years, we must hold Justin Trudeau to his promises to repeal Bill C-377, to begin an inquiry into

missing and murdered aboriginal women and to restore card-check certification.

"If Trudeau is going to repeal C-525, then why won't the Premier allow us to have card-check in Ontario," he asked.

We must convince Trudeau to repeal, not revise Bill C-51, he said, adding we must push to radically change or walk away from the TPP, which will devastate the auto and other sectors.

He closed by calling on OFL delegates to leave this Convention united and stronger than ever before.

"The enemies of this organization are not in this room; they are in board rooms and legislatures across the country," he said. "When you leave, leave united, and tell the employers: You attack one of us, you attack all of us."

"We don't need to make changes to Bill C-51, we need to repeal the bloody law."
- CLC President Hassan Yussuff