

# AFFILIATION: WE ARE STRONGER TOGETHER

Join the *ONTARIO FEDERATION OF LABOUR*



[join@ofl.ca](mailto:join@ofl.ca) / [www.ofl.ca](http://www.ofl.ca)

If you belong to a union then you already believe in the idea that there is strength in numbers.

One worker asserting a claim against the united strength of a corporation's management has little force or persuasion. However, when many workers take action together, they can have an incredible impact.

The Ontario Federation of Labour (OFL) takes this principle of solidarity to the next level. If workers gathered in a union are a force to be reckoned with, then imagine the strength and influence of many unions joined together across all sectors.

Behind each member of every union affiliated to the OFL stands the collective strength of all of the members of all affiliated unions. When the OFL confronts an issue relevant to working people, it does so with the full weight of Ontario's labour movement behind it. Corporations, governments and political leaders know that when the OFL speaks it is with the voice of a multitude.

There can be no more important reason to affiliate with the OFL than raise our voices together in defense of workers' rights, human rights and social justice for all Ontarians. The strength of your union's voice will be

amplified and you can depend on the support of other unions in defending your members.

The Ontario Federation of Labour also connects affiliates to community groups and organizations that share your commitment to building a better province that supports everyone. These partnerships strengthen individual or local activism by allowing for networking among individuals and progressive groups that are both concerned and knowledgeable about issues.

Labour and community solidarity are the lifeblood of the social change and they are critical in raising public awareness and putting pressure on all levels of government to support people over profit.

**54 unions representing  
1 million workers  
The OFL is Ontario's  
HOUSE OF LABOUR  
JOIN US!**

# LABOUR LEADERSHIP: WORKING FOR YOU

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The Ontario Federation of Labour is the largest provincial federation operating under a charter from the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC). The OFL represents one million workers belonging to 54 different unions.

OFL Conventions are held every two years in November and is the governing body of the Federation. All affiliated unions, their locals and labour councils define the agenda of the labour movement by sending policy resolutions on issues of concern and sending elected delegates to represent them at these conventions. Convention information is mailed to all affiliates in August of convention year.

Delegates to the Convention elect the OFL's full-time officers for two-year terms: President, Secretary-Treasurer and Executive Vice-President.

The OFL Executive Board manages the affairs of the Federation between Conventions. It has the power to conduct all of the operation and affairs of the Federation, carry out the decision and instructions of the convention and enforce the OFL Constitution.

The Executive Board consists of the three full-time Officers and 33 Vice-Presidents. Of these Vice-Presidents, 15 represent the 15 largest affiliates and eight are affirmative action positions for women from the four largest public and private sector affiliates. The Executive Board includes dedicated representation for Aboriginal persons, persons with disabilities, workers of colour, young workers, LGBT workers and labour councils. These representatives are elected at Convention through Caucuses comprised of delegates who self-identify with the particular group.

The OFL also has an Executive Council that is made up of the Executive Board and a representative of each of the over 40 labour councils from across Ontario. Labour councils play an important role in their communities by bringing together affiliates at the local level. The active involvement of labour councils in OFL campaigns and actions ensures that the Convention policies are implemented across the province. To accomplish these goals labour councils must be supported through the active affiliation and involvement of all unions in the community.

These structures of the Ontario Federation of Labour provide multiple ways for members' diverse and regional interests to be represented. This ensures that OFL policies reflect every worker. The OFL staff work tirelessly to implement the will of the membership and provide an invaluable resource to the labour movement.

However, the strength of the labour movement comes from its membership and the OFL Conventions are the highest decision-making body where members debate and decide a wide range of issues, policy papers, campaigns and initiatives.

# OFL CONVENTION: MEMBERSHIP IN ACTION

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The Ontario Federation of Labour organizes a regular convention which is held every two years (in November). The involvement of all affiliates is critical because the convention is the governing body of the OFL. Every effort is made to make the convention accessible and inclusive for all affiliates and their delegates.

The convention deals with policy issues by discussing and voting on resolutions endorsed by affiliates, policy papers developed by OFL staff with input from affiliates and emergency issues which may emerge during the convention.

In August of a convention year information is mailed to all affiliates. This includes such information as costs, delegate entitlement and time deadlines for resolutions.

**Rules of the Convention** - are outlined in the OFL Constitution and a copy is given to every delegate.

**Policy** – Resolutions endorsed by affiliates at local meetings are forwarded to the OFL. The order in which resolutions are dealt with by the convention is the responsibility of the Resolutions Committee (made up of representatives from affiliates) not the OFL. Delegates take part in all policy discussions at the convention. Policy is not just a discussion of the issue but also of action plans directing the OFL to address these issues through a wide variety of means such as campaigns, meeting with government and involving affiliates and like-minded organizations across Ontario.

**Voting** – Delegates may take part in any policy discussion. There are pro and con mikes and the decisions are usually made by a show of hands.

**New Delegate Orientation** – A session is held on the Sunday afternoon to make first time delegates more aware and comfortable on how the convention operates.

**Accessibility** – The OFL works closely with the OFL Persons with Disabilities Committee to ensure that all aspects of the convention are as accessible as possible for all delegates.

**Caucuses** – Delegates who self-identify with particular equity seeking groups may take part in the caucus which elects/selects their representative to the OFL Executive Board and discusses convention activities of concern to the group.

**Educationals** – Every OFL convention has guest speakers during the convention and at forums in the evening on a variety of issues of interest to delegates.

# OFL COMMITTEES: YOUR ISSUES, YOUR VOICE

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Executive Board members chair the OFL's numerous standing committees to address issues and campaigns relevant to different sectors and constituencies. Committees consider the resolutions passed at the OFL Convention and make recommendations to the Executive Board on policy and implementation.

Affiliates may appoint a representative to any OFL Committee. Any of the costs involved in the work of OFL Committees is the responsibility of the affiliate, not the Ontario Federation of Labour.

OFL Standing Committees, such as human rights, workers compensation and occupational health and safety, deal with a wide range of issues of concern to working people. If an unexpected issue arises between

conventions, special committees are organized to recommend a course of action for the OFL.

Committees within the OFL have a number of very important functions. They provide a forum to:

- Follow through on convention policy decisions;
- Exchange information between affiliates;
- Establish and strengthen relationships with like-minded community organizations who share our concern with issues, and
- Identify and better understand developing issues and to make recommendations to the OFL Executive Board for policy development and action to address these issues.

## GET INVOLVED WITH THE OFL'S MANY COMMITTEES

First Nations, Métis, Inuit Circle (FNMI)  
Apprenticeship Committee  
Arts and Labour Committee  
Education is a Right Committee  
Environment Committee  
Health and Safety Committee  
Health Care Committee  
Human Rights Committee  
Labour Adjustment Committee  
Labour Relations Committee

Pension Committee  
Persons with a Disability Committee  
Political Education Committee  
Social Services Committee  
Solidarity and Pride Committee  
Training Committee  
Women's Committee  
Workers' Compensation Committee  
Workers of Colour Committee  
Workers Under 30 Committee

# COMMUNICATIONS: KEEPING YOU INFORMED

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The OFL has a strong commitment to keep members aware and involved in actions to defend the interests of working people across the province. The OFL's activities are based on Convention decisions where affiliates from across Ontario come to discuss and vote for policies of concern to them, their families and their communities. The OFL works tirelessly to draw public and government attention to issues through media strategies that generate extensive coverage.

The best source of current information for the activities of the OFL is our website: [www.ofl.ca](http://www.ofl.ca).

By visiting the OFL website, members can sign up to our E-Blast to stay informed up to the minute.

The OFL produces a quarterly publication called the OFL Action Report to document the work of the labour movement. These reports are available online and are mailed directly to every affiliate.

The OFL uses social media to spread the word and support our members by reaching a wider audience and shaping public opinion.

## FOLLOW THE OFL ONLINE AND ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Stay Updated: [OFL.ca](http://OFL.ca)

'Friend' OFL: [Facebook.com/OntarioLabour](https://Facebook.com/OntarioLabour)

'Follow' OFL: [Twitter.com/OntarioLabour](https://Twitter.com/OntarioLabour)

Photos: [Flickr.com/OntarioFedLabour](https://Flickr.com/OntarioFedLabour)

Videos: [Youtube.com/OFLCommunications](https://Youtube.com/OFLCommunications)

# GET ACTIVE: JOIN THE OFL

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## YES, WE WANT TO JOIN THE ONTARIO FEDERATION OF LABOUR

To affiliate to the OFL, your union must be a member of, or be prepared to join, the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC). The OFL per capita is \$0.63 per member, per month, based on your monthly membership.

**UNION:** \_\_\_\_\_

Local: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Members: \_\_\_\_\_

**PRESIDENT:** \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY:** \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

**RECORDING SECRETARY:** \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is a cheque payable to the "Ontario Federation of Labour – CLC" in the amount of:

\$\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ members @ \$0.63 per member, per month.

Effective date of affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_ (Day/Month/Year)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Make the cheque payable to:  
**Ontario Federation of Labour – CLC**  
15 Gervais Drive, Suite 202, Toronto, Ontario M3C 1Y8

Questions? Contact the OFL:  
1-800-668-9138 | join@ofl.ca | www.ofl.ca

