



# Ontario Federation of Labour President's Report



OFL Executive Board Meeting - September 27, 2010

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What a show of solidarity at ECP Brantford! No production for 3 days as labour movement demands anti-scab legislation.

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## Part I – Campaigns & Government Relations

### UNIONS TO MCGUINTY: RESTORE ANTI-SCAB LEGISLATION NOW!



#### HUGE SUCCESS WITH BREAKTHROUGH AT ECP

Fifteen long months since the last round of bargaining, on Day 3 of intensive labour actions, word finally came that Engineered Coated Products (ECP) would return to the table. USW Canadian Director Ken Neumann announced the breakthrough to cheering crowds outside the Brantford Courthouse and thanked the OFL and President Sid Ryan for their major effort. USW District 6 Director Wayne Fraser also sent thanks to all those involved for the incredible demonstration of solidarity in support of the members.



The plant was closed and no production took place during the three-day labour action. For two years ECP and its U.S.- and Montreal-based parent company, Intertape Polymer Group, have mercilessly abused their workers by busing in scabs and using security companies to threaten and intimidate them. The courthouse site was chosen to demonstrate labour's disgust with the company's use of its clout to pervert the *Ontario Labour Relations Act*. ECP routinely launched frivolous actions against the striking workers for swearing on the picket line, conversing with scabs or stepping a toe on a line marking a plant boundary.



ECP's conduct (following closely on the heels of Vale Inco) is one of Canada's best examples of the need for the reinstatement of anti-scab legislation, yet Premier Dalton McGuinty refuses to take action. The Premier, who was scammed the first day of the action, was quoted as saying "we don't need laws for the few," prompting an open letter and volley of media releases noting that people are more than statistics. Workers came forward to detail stories of the devastating effects on them and their families.



Numerous Ontario strikes featuring scabs are underway including Infinity Rubber, Sears, Amcor, Lynn Furniture, Tyco and others. The OFL noted it would go employer-by-employer and city-by-city if need be to achieve the legislation. On Aug 23, activists gathered for the Brantford Anti-Scab Summit and planning got underway. The legislation was also a subject of discussion at the OFL's Sept. 9th meeting with the Finance Minister Dwight Duncan and Labour Minister Peter Fonseca. The solidarity action was led by the OFL, Brantford and District Labour Council, and USW Local I-500, with the USW, CAW and CUPE Ontario each taking a day.

In 1993, B.C. brought in anti-scab legislation under the NDP. Within the first year, the rate of work stoppages dropped by 50%; Quebec's legislation has been in place since 1977, with average annual work stoppages reported at 39 days in 1976. It has steadily dropped to the current 15 days, a reduction of 62%.



### UPDATE: SEPT. 9 MEETING WITH MINISTERS

Both the large union pre-meeting and the subsequent meeting with Finance Minister Dwight Duncan and Labour Minister Peter Fonseca were examples of how much we can accomplish in solidarity. The extremely productive labour pre-meeting enabled the 13 unions present to reach consensus on priority agenda items, namely: the public sector wage freeze and its companion piece, corporate income; tax breaks; the reinstatement of anti-scab legislation and card-based certification and pensions.

#### Public sector wage freeze

The OFL asked whether the government intended to enact public sector wage freeze legislation. The Oct. 3 end-of-consultation deadline is fast approaching. Duncan's replies emphasized the word "voluntarily" and the phrase "We are asking for your help." The minister noted that since March, 28 collective agreements have been signed with only eight in compliance. We also learned the minister had begun to review the Quebec model as a possible alternative solution.



Unions outlined their frustrations with respect to the consultation process and the fact it is becoming more similar to negotiations than consultations. The minister said he was open to suggestions to improve it (except for sectoral tables which the government is opposed to). He also noted he was considering reinstating tripartite councils consisting of government, employers and unions.

#### Anti-Scab and Card-based Certification

The issues of anti-scab legislation and card-based certification also yielded some new results. We laid out numerous concerns and arguments for changes. The conduct of Vale Inco, ECP and Gen Tek were mentioned as some of the more recent examples of companies that are engaging in actions that are tantamount to abuse of workers. The MOL is willing to meet with us on both issues but noted that it was not persuaded that anti-scab legislation led to shorter strikes. Fonseca also noted that only 2 1/2% of strikes involve the use of scabs. The OFL said this statistic should make it easier, not harder, to implement legislation. We will begin to collect and intensively review all data available and submit this to the MOL.

## Pension regulation changes

The meeting with the Minister of Finance was also an opportunity to raise an emerging concern about proposals to change regulations covering pension plans in the Ontario university sector. According to the proposed new rules, Ontario universities will be provided with significant additional leeway in paying down existing pension deficits, but only on the condition that those employers develop a "sustainability plan". At a recent Finance Ministry technical briefing on the proposed measure, officials provided documentation to trade union representatives clarifying the criteria to be used by ministry officials in evaluating these plans: whether the plan's benefits have been cut, whether the funding obligations have been shifted into a 50-50 cost share (rather than the current arrangement with the employers paying more than the members), and whether or not the plan will be converted into a defined contribution plan for future service.

The Minister and his senior staff defended the new measure on the grounds that certain university pension plans were "in trouble", and that this new rule was simply their means of "helping" the sector. When it was pointed out the financial problems for many plans were made far worse by employers' frequent recourse to contribution holidays, and that some university plans paid out average pensions as low as \$9,000 per year, the Minister had very little response.

## Meeting with Premier McGuinty

We also requested a meeting with the Premier. Minister Duncan will try to arrange this.

## OFL RESPONDS TO ONTARIO PENSION ANNOUNCEMENT

On Aug. 24, the Ontario government released proposals to reform the *Pension Benefits Act* (PBA) and implement certain of the recommendations of the Ontario Expert Commission on Pensions (OEC). Although no legislation or regulations have yet been released, the OFL Pensions Committee met to review the proposals and commented on some of the priority concerns.

In a letter to Finance Minister Dwight Duncan, OFL President Sid Ryan alerted him to the fact that three of OEC's most important recommendations have not been included and asked whether they will be. The missing recommendations are:

1. The Ontario Pension Benefits Guarantee Fund ("PBGF") be improved, so as to ensure pension benefits of up to \$2,500 per month;





2. An Ontario Pension Agency be established that would provide a low cost and efficient mechanism to support pension portability.
3. Emergency indexation provisions be adopted.

The letter also dealt with a number of other proposals, namely: funding, plan improvements, improved disclosure and contribution holidays; MEP's; surplus. The full response is available at [www.ofl.ca](http://www.ofl.ca).

### **PUBLIC SECTOR WAGE FREEZE CAUCUS**

The OFL organized an emergency caucus with union leaders July 20, to plan the response to the government's same-day meeting with public sector employers and unions at which Duncan made a direct appeal for imposition of the freeze. President Sid Ryan delivered the core messages, calling attention to the onerous economic burden that will be placed on low-and modest-income Ontarians who are being asked to subsidize the corporate bottom line. "Public sector workers stimulate the economy. They spend every disposable penny they've got in their local community. Why would the government reduce this stimulus and put a break on economic growth?" Ryan said.



"Lower wages means lower tax revenue for government. This fact, combined with the more than \$4 billion tax give-away to corporations, makes us very concerned that Ontario may well be compromising its fiscal capacity to protect public services—and slowing down the pace of deficit reduction." Canadian Union of Public Employees Ontario President, Fred Hahn, emphasized the unions' message that wage restraints don't work, especially at a time when the economy is showing signs of recovery and told the *Globe & Mail* "It's a punitive, panic-driven measure that we think will hurt the economy." The public sector wage freeze was the key discussion item at the Sept. 9 quarterly meeting with Duncan and Labour Minister Peter Fonseca (see page 2). OFL unions will meet as quickly as possible after the Phase 3 meetings are finished.

### **OFL TACKLES BILL 68: AN ACT TO PROMOTE ONTARIO AS OPEN FOR BUSINESS**

Bill 68 amends 100 regulations affecting 10 ministries, including the Ministries of Labour, Environment and Natural Resources. The OFL's August 4 submission to the Standing Committee on Finance & Economic Affairs focuses on Schedule 9, one of the worst sections, and highlights the consequences for workers. We have called for its removal. The ES Modernization Strategy shifts the model of *Employment Standards Act (ESA)* enforcement from detection of violations and enforcement of minimum standards among unequal parties to

dispute resolution between employers and workers. We objected to the strategy to encourage "workplace self-reliance". The shift to even greater self-regulation by employers will result in more violations going unreported and unenforced. This will create downward pressure on employers who do comply with employment standards as they compete against employers that do not. Compliant companies will get priced out of the market by substandard employment conditions. Practices of non-compliance will spread and become permanent features of a restructured labour market. The proposed requirements for claims information, time limits and self-enforcement by employees create barriers to workers seeking unpaid wages while doing little to increase employer compliance.

To meet the goals of addressing the claims' backlog and improving the claims process, we have recommended the following: do not require workers to attempt self-enforcement before filing an ESA claim; do not require workers to provide information on claims before the claim will be accepted; set clear and transparent time limits for employers; do not change the legislation to have employment standards officers facilitate settlements. The full submission can be viewed on the OFL website, [www.ofl.ca](http://www.ofl.ca).

### **HARPER GOVERNMENT WARNED NOT TO SHRED EMPLOYMENT EQUITY GAINS**

The OFL is demanding Prime Minister Stephen Harper call off his government's attack on the federal Employment Equity Program. In an open letter to Harper, OFL President Sid Ryan noted that hiring practices are still discriminatory and that Employment Equity programs are needed more than ever to ensure the removal of systemic barriers and provide a fair opportunity for equity-seeking groups to access jobs.

Comments made by Treasury Board President, Stockwell Day, and Citizenship and Immigration Minister, Jason Kenney, suggested not only a complete ignorance about Employment Equity but a lack of commitment to retaining the *Act*. The initiative was led by the Colour of Poverty Campaign and supported by over 100 community and labour organizations, businesses and individuals across Canada who believe that all Canadians have the right to barrier-free employment without prejudice or discrimination. It can be viewed at [www.ofl.ca](http://www.ofl.ca).



## HEALTH & SAFETY



### Kill a worker, go to jail campaign: work tragedies mount

The death toll continues to mount since our last Executive Board report. Paul Roache, 37-years-old, and Raiston White, 43-years-old, died at the Filsinger Organic apple orchard and processing facility in Ayton. A preliminary report indicates the two men were attempting to fix a pump for an apple cider vat when they were overcome by toxic gas. Both migrant agricultural workers were Jamaican citizens, working in Canada under the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program (SAWP).

Wayne Hanley, National President of UFCW Canada and the Agriculture Workers Alliance (AWA) noted "Their deaths are a tragic reminder of the dangers and risks involved in the agriculture sector. Working in an enclosed space — like a silo or a vat — is known as high risk, yet Ontario continues to exempt the agriculture sector from specific regulations on enclosed spaces that apply to every other industry."

In his letter to Labour Minister Peter Fonseca, OFL President Sid Ryan demanded an explanation as to why, after so much evidence the government continues to stall on urgently needed regulations. "These are needless tragedies that should not have happened. The death toll is mounting, but we have not seen a matching sense of urgency from your ministry."

### More worker deaths

Brother Ryan's letter also noted the Aug. 9<sup>th</sup> death of a Vaughn construction worker who was killed when a load of steel beams came loose. His death came during an eight-week provincial safety awareness campaign focused on construction worksite safety.

On May 19, a worker at a Whitby project site was fatally injured when a block wall, in a trench, collapsed and crushed him to death. Another death occurred June 25 when a worker was killed when the roof of a mobile home trailer, in Oro-Medonte, was being dismantled. There have also been two workers buried to death in trench-related accidents this year.

"Where is the action from the Labour Ministry and from the police who have still not laid charges under Westray Bill C-45," Ryan demanded to know.

**Justicia y Dignidad para los Trabajadores Extranjeros Temporales**

La faz de la población trabajadora en Canadá está cambiando rápidamente. A pesar de que los trabajadores migrantes han sido una realidad en Canadá por años, en los últimos años, hemos visto un aumento drástico en la utilización de Trabajadores Extranjeros Migrantes en el país. Bajo el gobierno Conservador, el Programa de Trabajadores Extranjeros Temporales se ha expandido sustancialmente con más de 250,000 Trabajadores Extranjeros Temporales ingresando a la fuerza laboral Canadiense cada año como trabajadores agrícolas, trabajadores en el procesamiento de alimentos, trabajadores que brindan servicios de hotelería, ayudantes familiares, y trabajadores de construcción.

**UFCW CANADA**  
su VOZ en el trabajo

## Most recent WSIB statistics

WSIB statistics demonstrate the urgent need for pro-activity – not just more education campaigns from the Ontario government. At end July 2010:

- Total injuries reported to the WSIB - 140,709; so far 104,865 have been allowed;
- Total fatalities reported to the WSIB – 313: 53 of these are traumatic deaths (killed on the job); 234 are occupational disease; the remainder are those who suffered 100% disability for years before dying.

## OFL materials for police services

We continue to follow up workplace deaths with the educational packages prepared by the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services to educate and advise police services across Ontario about the amendments to the Criminal Code made by Bill C-45. The package consists of a memo dated March 30, 2004 that went to every Chief of Police in Ontario as well as the OPP Commissioner. Attached to that memo is a copy of Bill C-45 as it was passed by the House of Commons as well as a plain language guide to Bill C-45.

## Expert Panel Update

The panel continued their consultations and discussions with system experts as well as employers and unions over the summer. Panel Secretariat staff are summarizing the information gathered at the consultations. This information, along with the technical advice on options for recommendations, will be provided to panel members this month. The work of the panel will intensify in October, with key decisions on recommendations for the government to flow in mid-November and the final report slated for December.

## MAJOR EFFORTS UNDERWAY AT OCCUPATIONAL DISABILITY RESPONSE TEAM (ODRT)

During the first half of the year, ODRT extended its province-wide reach and service delivery capabilities with staff training of 24 additional instructors and other local training initiatives. New flyers, brochures, ads and direct contact with numerous community and labour groups have been key to promoting vital services. Staff have also updated several training programs to reflect legislative and policy changes and developed new instructional material and courses. A customized Appeals & Dispute Resolution Course was presented to 12 staff of the Association of Management, Administrative and Professional Crown Employees. These combined efforts enabled ODRT staff and volunteers to deliver over 50% of targeted training hours for the year.



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In August, the OFL-ODRT secured additional funding of \$385,000, for the current year, to provide facilitation services on work re-integration of injured workers. The OFL initially hired two temporary disability prevention facilitators and an administrative support person to prepare materials and arrange facilities for 17 community awareness sessions scheduled for November, 2010. Two additional facilitators will be hired for a 10-week contract starting October 7, to assist with community presentations and meet with workplace representatives to promote onsite return to work situational assessments, leadership strategy sessions, customized training for workplace committees and front line supervision of workers.

Staff are currently working with ONA, SEIU, OPSEU and Niagara Health System conducting a RTW situational assessment with 60 personnel at Welland Hospital facilities. The assessment provides a baseline and analysis of legal obligations and leading practices in return to work.

OFL-ODRT MISSION: To improve the well-being of workers and their working conditions by being a leading provider of training and advisory services on workplace insurance and disability prevention. We facilitate access for workers with disabilities to appropriate health care, disability benefits, workplace accommodation and fair treatment by employers, insurance and health care providers.

### **Part II: AFFILIATIONS**

#### **Labour strength grows as CAW & CUPE locals join OFL**



#### **Great news as CAW Local 707 announces return to OFL**

In a warmly written letter, Dave Miller, Recording Secretary of L. 707 and President of the Oakville and District Labour Council has announced the reaffiliation of the local's 2900 members. Calling the vote "a proud moment" Miller attributes the union's vote to return to the leadership of OFL President Sid Ryan.



"The leadership shown over the course of the past 10 months from you Brother Ryan has been exceptional to say the least. I have personally been privileged enough to see your leadership front and center in Sudbury (USW Rally, March 22, 2010), Hamilton (May 1<sup>st</sup> Hamilton Convention Center) and most recently in Brantford (ECP, USW 1-500 strike). Our hope is that many more CAW locals follow our lead and also re-establish their commitment to the OFL." Local 707 members and retirees have a long and rich history with the OFL and we extend our enthusiastic welcome to them.

## ... And CUPE L. 966 also set to become newest members

CUPE Local 966 Executive Board's vote in favour of OFL affiliation is yet more welcome news. The approximately 2,000 community and municipal workers are based in the Peel Region. OFL President Sid Ryan has been invited to address the membership at the Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## PART III: AFFILIATE & LABOUR MOVEMENT SOLIDARITY

### LABOUR DAY

Bad weather in many Ontario cities Sept. 6, did not deter thousands of union members from marching and attending events. Demands for retirement security through an enhanced CPP, anti-scab legislation, better wages and working conditions and more, were front and centre as the labour movement celebrated its substantial and major accomplishments. In Toronto, 20,000 people marched under the banner "Protect Our Public Services." OFL President Sid Ryan spoke at the CAW's event at Nathan Phillips Square, marched at the front of Toronto's parade with other labour leaders and joined USW members at the Cecil Street Hall after the event. Executive Vice-President Terry Downey also participated in the Toronto parade; Secretary-Treasurer Marie Kelly spoke in Sudbury. Brother Ryan's Labour Day message can be viewed at [www.ofl.ca](http://www.ofl.ca).



### COMMUNICATIONS, ENERGY AND PAPERWORKERS UNION OF CANADA

President Sid Ryan brought OFL greetings to delegates at CEP's five-day biennial convention that kicked off Sept 19. Commending the union for its stellar fight against foreign ownership, Ryan singled out key areas of labour concern, namely: pension plans and foreign corporate efforts to move from defined benefits to defined contributions. He praised the CLC's campaign to expand the CPP to ensure all Canadians have a decent standard of living when they retire. He also spoke about the devastation caused by foreign-owned companies on private sector picket lines. Naming Vale Inco and ECP as examples of companies taking advantage of Ontario's lack of anti-scab legislation, Ryan urged delegates to join the OFL campaign for anti-scab legislation. "Enough is enough. If its good enough for B.C. and Quebec then Ontario must reinstate the legislation. We're not going to allow the government to abuse workers and enable foreign nationals to take advantage of lax laws that force them out on strike and then replace them with scabs."



Key resolutions included calls for increases in the minimum wage, a stronger commitment to pattern bargaining, pension security and others that committed the union to work for the defeat of any MP who votes for more foreign ownership of telco and broadcasting industries. In his opening address, CEP President, Dave Coles, pointed the finger squarely at Prime Minister Stephen Harper's government for failing to come to the aid of the forest sector, and for working to bring other industries – energy, telecommunications, media – under more foreign control. "These ideologues have failed to lift a finger to aid forest communities, and if they win the next election, other sectors will meet the same fate," says Coles.

View Brother Ryan's and CEP President Dave Coles' speeches at CEP LIVE! [www.ceplive.ca](http://www.ceplive.ca).

### **PUBLIC SERVICE ALLIANCE OF CANADA**

OFL officer Terry Downey was a key speaker at PSAC's Ontario Regional Women's Conference held September 10-12. The conference theme, "You Have a Voice, Make it Heard," was the focus of crucial resolutions and discussions on women's equality. Top agenda items included the PSAC Fight-Back Campaign, Universal Child Care, PSAC's Social Justice Fund, the CLC Pension Campaign and other pressing issues to drive women's equality front and centre. Sister Downey spoke on the importance of union women becoming involved in the political process at all levels – municipal, provincial, federal and the need to link union and community-based efforts. The Organizing Committee of the PSAC Ontario Regional Women's Conference also sent a powerful message about inequality and wage gaps in Canada with release of its video "Pennies of Prosperity," available on the PSAC website: [www.pvac-afpc.org](http://www.pvac-afpc.org).



### **UNITED STEELWORKERS, DISTRICT 6**

OFL Officer Terry Downey was a keynote speaker at the eighteenth United Steelworkers District 6 Conference held in Halifax, Aug. 16-18. Her speech called for human rights and equity to be viewed as bread-and-butter issues and noted "in the absence of these basic human rights, the struggle for labour rights abroad and ultimately at home, will be a losing battle."

"We know from our own experience that human rights are one and the same as workers' rights. We see first hand how linking global struggles for social justice is directly linked to our own workplace struggles for economic justice." Sister Downey reminded delegates that massive job losses, wage rollbacks, the growth of precarious employment and the ongoing transformation of domestic labour markets into one big Wal-Mart mean that "North American workers

will not achieve job security, fair wages and working conditions and decent health benefits, so long as they are forced to compete in the global marketplace with workers around the world who are denied all of these things." Thanking District 6 for its work and commitment to human rights at home and abroad, she told delegates "District 6 USW has always shown a commitment to human rights and has demonstrated it to be a cornerstone of what it means to be a trade unionist." The theme of the conference was "Solidarity Now More than Ever".

## **UNITE/HERE LOCAL 75**

Sun., Sept. 12, OFL President Sid Ryan joined hotel workers on their one-day strike outside the Hyatt Regency, the host hotel for the Toronto International Film Festival. Brother Ryan walked the "alternative red carpet" and spoke at the rally calling for fair wages and working conditions. This was a critical week for the union. It was in legal strike/lockout positions at five hotels. OFL officer Terry Downey attended the Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> rally, also outside the Hyatt. The OFL sent out a solidarity request to all unions for the Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> simultaneous rallies at the Hilton Hotels.



## **PART IV: COMMUNITY SOLIDARITY**

### **ONTARIO PRIDE WEEK**

OFL President Sid Ryan and officers Terry Downey and Marie Kelly joined the huge Toronto Pride Day march, celebrating "30 years of Pride." Steve Seaborn, Vice-President of the OFL's Solidarity & Pride Committee attended Windsor and Peel-Halton events.



In Toronto and across the province, affiliate unions participated with floats and contingents in support of the fundamental rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered (LGBT) people. The labour movement has fought for collective bargaining rights and stood shoulder-to-shoulder with members through legal battles to achieve legislative equality. Regrettably, legal rights do not mean full dignity and social equality. For too many LGBT workers, discrimination in the workplace and in society are still very real threats. The OFL's Solidarity & Price Committee continues its work to highlight these critical issues and to celebrate the amazing accomplishments of the past decade.

### **G20 RESPONSE: DAY OF ACTION FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES**

The OFL was one of the endorsers of the July 10 pan-Canada G20 response and the Queen's Park demonstration against the excessive use of police force and the unprecedented curtailment of civil liberties. Under the pretext of stopping vandalism, police descended

upon peaceful protesters and confused passers-by with force that was disproportionate, arbitrary and excessive, including raids, rubber bullets, tear gas and pre-emptive detentions. All endorsers are demanding an independent public inquiry. The open letter to Harper & McGuinty, to which the OFL is a signatory, can be viewed at [www.ofl.ca](http://www.ofl.ca) as well as OFL President Sid Ryan's media comments.



### **LATIN AMERICAN TRADE UNIONIST COALITION OF CANADA**

OFL President Sid Ryan was one of the key speakers at LATUC's 1<sup>st</sup> Constitutional Convention that kicked off Sept. 10 at the Steelworker Hall on Cecil Street. Over 200 community and union members and provincial and international labour leaders were on hand to support LATUC's dream of a national labour organization representing all Spanish-speaking members in public and private sector unions. Brother Ryan congratulated organizers for their tireless efforts and named LATUC as one of three organizations with the capacity to transform the labour movement. "Our brothers and sisters in LATUC, the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists and the Asian Coalition Labour Association are the brightest hope for the labour movement. They have fought and won international battles that have changed the course of history. These are our next and finest leaders."

### **PART V: UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### **OFL Seminar: Achieving and Maintaining Pay Equity**

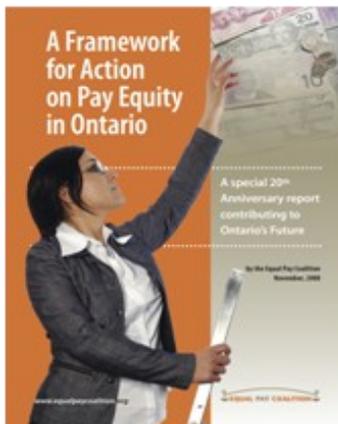
Wednesday, September 29, 9 – 5 p.m. with lawyers from Cavalluzzo, Hayes, Shilton, McIntyre & Cornish. OFL contact Carrol Anne Sceviour, 416-443-7670 or 1-800-668-9138.

#### **OFL and Ontario Network of Injured Workers: Health & Safety and WCB Conference**

Thursday, November 25 – 27, Sheraton Centre, 123 Queen St. W., Toronto. OFL contact Sylvia Stewart, 416-443-7677 or 1-800-668-9138.

#### **Regional Workshops for Members of Equity-Seeking Groups:**

For those who may be interested in becoming candidates in next year's provincial election. Jointly organized by the OFL Political Action and Human Rights Departments: Saturdays, starting Oct. 30 and ending Nov. 20 in London, Sudbury, Ottawa, Oshawa, St. Catharines and Mississauga. See [www.OFL.ca](http://www.OFL.ca), or phone Sylvia Stewart, 416-443-7667.



## PART VI: In Memoriam

### Peter Liebovitch

On Sept. 18, Peter Liebovitch, our dear friend, colleague, passionate labour and human rights activist and champion for social justice, passed away from a rare and vicious form of leukemia. It was a shock to us all.

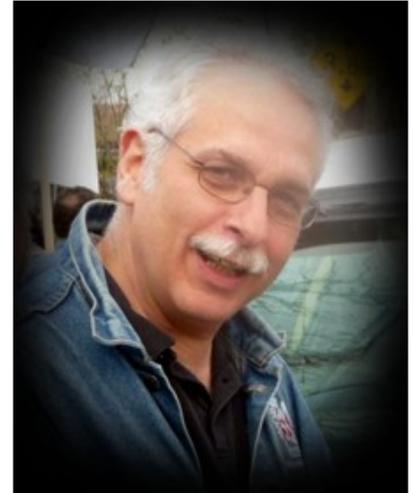
Peter leaves a lifetime of work that has changed our lives, our communities and our collective history. He devoted his remarkable life to organizing people without power and confronting those who did. He was a steelworker, postal worker, union organizer, political activist, mentor, NDP campaign manager, father and grandfather whose enormous integrity inspired both friends and foes. He never backed down from a challenge that he viewed as right and necessary and did not let often enormous pressures dissuade him from his own interior voice. That in itself is exceptional.

Peter had a Jewish religious upbringing in Montreal that was heavily concerned with social justice. He stood against many in his own community with his fearless and passionate demands, support and campaigning for Palestinian rights and a homeland. If the cause was right, Peter was there.

OFL President Sid Ryan pays tribute to Peter "as a beautiful man with a love for life and people that is matched by very few. His capacity to empathize with those impacted by human rights violations was boundless. We have lost a true champion of the labour movement and friend to us all."

Newspapers and media outlets are filled numerous stories and anecdotes of his life. But even as these may differ, they all describe the same qualities in Peter we all knew: fearless, passionate, forthright, a man of integrity, a peace, social justice, NDP, and labour activist, with an understated way of speaking and an easygoing manner. Yesterday's memorial service at LIUNA Gardens overflowed with friends, family and colleagues still reeling from news of his sudden death.

Peter will be greatly missed by his father Hy, his mother Min, his brothers Ralph and Howard, sister Rena and children Jacob, Joseph, Steven, Danielle, Michael and Samuel, grandchildren Kaley, Galya, Zamira, Cohen, Adeira and Leo. Known as "Leibo," to his many friends, we join the family in mourning his loss.



## PART VII: External Communications

Between June 29 to September 23, 2010, the OFL has received significant media coverage and has established itself as a reliable and positive source of information and commentary. It has been featured in the following new outlets:

- 560 CFOS
- 580 CFRA
- 680 News
- 92 FM
- A-Channel
- AM 800
- AM 640 Toronto Radio
- CBC News World
- CBC Radio Two
- CHCH TV News
- CHBC News
- CHEX2-TV
- CHOK-AM
- CityTV
- CKNW AM 980
- CKPT FM
- CP24
- CTS TV
- CTV
- CUAD AM
- Global TV News Regina
- Global TV News Toronto
- Moose FM
- New County 96 FM
- Newstalk 610
- Newstalk 1010
- OMNI TV
- Talk 820

A clippings compendium is appended to this report.

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# Ontario Federation of Labour President's Report

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Watch for the OFL's special publication featuring highlights of the 3-day anti-scab rally at Engineered Coated Products in Brantford. The interviews with striking workers and photos of each day tell an impressive story about the power of solidarity and what it can achieve.



# Anti-scab legislation NOW!

## **Vale Inco, Engineered Coated Products, Sears . . .**

The list goes on. Thousands of women, men, children and families are being devastated by the government's refusal to reinstate anti-scab legislation. Whole communities such as Sudbury, Port Colborne and Brantford are torn apart when bad employers resort to scabs.

We told the government that we're not prepared to wait any longer for it to act. We'll go city-by-city if that's what it takes.

The Ontario Federation of Labour  
Advocating for one million Ontario workers

[www.ofl.ca](http://www.ofl.ca)