

ONTARIO FEDERATION OF LABOUR PRESIDENT'S REPORT

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING • FEBRUARY 7, 2011





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

Ontario Federation of Labour President's Report, OFL Executive Board Meeting, February 7, 2011

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Protesters were out in full at City Hall in Hamilton yesterday to support the 900 workers from U.S. Steel (formerly Stecco) who have been locked out since Nov. 7 over pension concessions and to admonish Prime Minister Stephen Harper for letting the dispute happen. Lower right, Hamilton Mayor Bob Bratina speaks.

STEEL CITY SPINE

PART 1: CAMPAIGNS & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

THE PEOPLE vs U.S. STEEL ... & THE HARPER GOVERNMENT

More than 10,000 labour and community activists jammed Hamilton's downtown core on Saturday, January 29, to protest U.S. Steel and the Harper government's attack on pensions. Organized by the OFL, CLC, USW Local 1005 and Hamilton and District Labour Council, the huge groundswell of solidarity received national and international media attention.

Union members filled nearly 60 out-of-town buses, almost double the number for Toronto's G20 rally. USW members from Vale Inco in Sudbury and Brantford's Engineered Coated Products, all of whom have encountered the same corporate demands and tactics, arrived to offer full support to Local 1005 members.

The company locked out its 900 workers November 7, 2010 and shipped steel production, and the prosperity that goes along with it, to the United States. The company is trying to force members to give up pension indexation for 9,000 retirees and block new hires from any similar defined benefit pension plans. In an all too familiar Canadian story, U.S. Steel wants to substitute real pensions with defined contribution plans – glorified saving accounts – that are at the mercy of the stock market.



Hamilton Mayor Bob Bratina delivers solidarity greetings to USW Local 1005

Defend Pensions • Support USW Local 1005

Hamilton Day of Action

Hamilton City Hall, 1 p.m., January 29, 2011

THE PEOPLE
VS
U.S. STEEL

opp342

In his address to the rally and in multiple media interviews, OFL President Sid Ryan demanded the Harper government stop aiding foreign investors in their bid to exploit Canada’s workers and resources, and drive down standards of living – especially those of retirees. “Hamilton is every town in Canada. When Harper forges secret deals with foreign investors like U.S. Steel and Vale Inco he creates the conditions to enable them to access a desperate workforce. It stops here,” said Ryan who pledged the OFL’s full support for a sustained campaign to defend the public interest.

With foreign investment at the highest level since World War II, Harper continues to obstruct meaningful regulation of the *Investment Canada Act* and its requirement to ensure a “net benefit” for the country when foreign mega-corporations set up their operations. The Conservatives actually plan to weaken this already ineffective act. In the 12 months prior to October 2010, it reviewed only 5 per cent of more than 400 takeovers, leaving Canada at the mercy of corporations like U.S. Steel. The steel company even reneged on legal obligations that enabled it to purchase the company in the first place.



“Let’s see how U.S. Steel fares against the entire labour movement – not just 9,000 pensioners and widows, many of whom are trying to make do with \$500/month. It’s disgraceful and unethical behaviour and we’ll do what we need to so that U.S. Steel and Harper face the consequences of their actions,” said Ryan.

The OFL produced the promotional materials to build for the day of action, including a poster, call-out pamphlet, and numerous mobilization updates. At the rally, 3,000 OFL placards and scarves were distributed to participants, creating a unified message and a strong visual presence for the Federation.

The rally stage was hosted by Hamilton and District Labour Council President Mary Long and speakers included: Hamilton Mayor Bob Bratina, USW Local 1005 President Rolf Gerstenberger, OFL President Sid Ryan, United Steelworkers International President Leo Gerard, CLC President Ken Georgetti, Ontario NDP Leader Andrea Horwath and NDP Leader Jack Layton.



Gerard, USW



Georgetti, CLC



Kelly & Downey, OFL

Ryan, OFL



The following Labour Councils booked or funded buses to Hamilton: Barrie, Brampton-Mississauga, Brantford, Durham, Grey-Bruce, Kingston, London, Niagara, Ottawa, Peterborough, Simcoe, Toronto, Waterloo and Windsor.

The following unions booked or funded buses: ACTRA, ATU, CAW, COPE, CUPE CUPW, ETFO, IBEW, OECTA, OSSTF, SEIU, the Society of Energy Professionals, UFCW, UNITE HERE Local 75 and USW.

In addition, many union members from these and other unions travelled to Hamilton privately.

OFL OCCUPIES FLAHERTY'S OFFICE TO PROTEST PENSION BETRAYAL

Federal Finance Minister Jim Flaherty's last-second betrayal of Canadians' retirement security sparked an immediate occupation of his Whitby office. Organized by the OFL on the eve of the Kananaskis provincial finance ministers' meeting, union and labour council members refused to budge until Flaherty got the message. Surrounded by TV cameras and reporters, OFL President Sid Ryan blasted Flaherty and the Harper government for putting Canadians at risk in their retirement years.

Less than a month before, Flaherty stood in front of Canada's labour leaders and members pledging support for an expanded Canada Pension Plan (CPP), but in a public capitulation to the financial industry, he completely reversed himself. The "new" vehicle will be the banks, mutual fund and insurance industries.

"This is no plan at all," said Ryan. "It's Flaherty's gift to friends like Sun Life to enable them to get a bigger cut of our savings to bolster their profits."

The CLC notes the following: \$10,000 invested over a lifetime in the CPP would yield \$72,000 by retirement, compared to the financial industry investment yield worth less than \$29,500.

As we go to press, CLC Political Action Committee members and provincial labour federation presidents are on their way to Ottawa to plan the next steps in the campaign for an expanded CPP.

NO MORE BUSINESS AS USUAL!

Min. Jim Flaherty wants to give our pensions to the banks & leave you with less.

PROTEST TODAY
 Fri. Dec. 16, starting at 10:30am
 Flaherty's Whitby Office
 204-701 Rossland Rd E

Tell Jim, NO WAY! (905) 665-8182

CLC President Ken Georgetti defends pensions

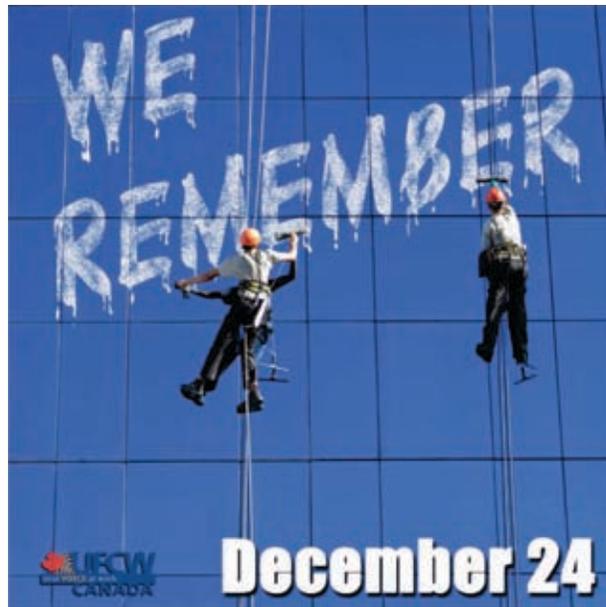
HEALTH & SAFETY

KILL A WORKER, GO TO JAIL

OFL President Sid Ryan was part of a media scrum, along with Police 23 Division Superintendent Ron Tavener, announcing C-45 criminal charges against Metron Construction, its owner Joel Swartz and others associated with the Christmas Eve deaths of four migrant workers. The OFL's high-profile *Kill a Worker, Go to Jail* campaign was the subject of numerous media stories and questions from reporters that day. The next Labour Ministry court appearance is scheduled for February 8, and the court date for criminal charges will be held February 9. OFL Health and Safety Director Vern Edwards will be at both and will report back on the details.

WSIB FUNDING REVIEW

The OFL held a major think tank January 24, in preparation for the WSIB's Funding Review Technical Consultation. The meeting brought together union and injured workers' representatives from Ontario Network of Injured Workers Groups (ONIWG) and experts such as Professor Emeritus, Osgoode Hall Law School, Terry Ison; CAW economist Jim Stanford; IAMAW Research Director Louis Erlichman; and WSIB expert Dave Wilken. Affiliates will receive an OFL update this week alerting them to the numerous calls they are likely to get from injured workers as a result of the WSIB's mailing. We urge affiliates to assist them to maximize their participation. This is an election year and if injured worker issues are to make it into the political realm, their voices, and all of ours, must be heard loud and clear. The mailing includes suggestions, a Conversation Guide and other materials. Full details of the WSIB Funding Review can be found at www.wsibfundingreview.ca. Ontario injured workers also have a website which will be of assistance to you in your outreach: www.injuredworkersonline.org



Ryan addresses Injured Workers' Conference



The Media scrums Tavener and Ryan



Labour Minister Peter Fonseca and Expert Panel Chair Tony Dean announce recommendations

EXPERT ADVISORY PANEL ON OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS

On December 16, Labour Minister Peter Fonseca and Chair of the Expert Advisory Panel on Occupational Health and Safety Tony Dean released the panel report and its 46 recommendations. The historic event marked the most comprehensive review of Ontario's prevention and enforcement systems in the past 30 years and resulted in the Queen's Park media studio overflowing its capacity.

OFL President Sid Ryan welcomed many of the recommendations, in particular the stronger protection from reprisals for workers who try to exercise their rights for a healthy and safe workplace; more extensive training of workers and supervisors; tougher penalties for those who place workers at risk of death or serious injury; a stronger role for labour in the decisions that are made in the prevention and enforcement system.

"We want to see the recommendations fully and swiftly implemented and hope they will result in fewer workplace deaths, injuries and occupational diseases," said Ryan. "It's time to launch a new era for workers. For the first time in decades, we are actually filled with some hope."

The announcement was almost upstaged by news that Labour Minister Fonseca would be leaving provincial politics to run in the federal election. He was replaced later that day by new Labour Minister Charles Sousa who has pledged to make implementation a priority of his department.

With just one legislative session left prior to the provincial election, we are requesting that all labour leaders continue to convey to Sousa and the government the necessity for fully and quickly implementing the recommendations.



NEXT STEPS FOR THE EXPERT ADVISORY PANEL

The first meeting of the Interim Council will take place February 23 and will focus on Recommendation 46 which contains priority items identified by the Panel. Those priorities include S.21 committees, reprisals' policy and other policy matters. The government will rely on the Interim Council to make recommendations with respect to the new Chief Prevention Officer. Once this work is completed, a permanent Prevention Council will be established. Confirmed members on the Interim Council are Vern Edwards and Carmine Tiano, representing labour; John McNamara and Dominic Mattina, representing employers; and Joan Eakin, representing academia. The Interim Chair is Paavo Kivisto, former Deputy Minister of Labour.

NOVEMBER BLOCKBUSTER CONFERENCE A HUGE SUCCESS!

More than 500 delegates got down to serious business at the joint OFL and Ontario Network of Injured Workers Groups' Conference. The agenda was designed to bring delegates up to speed – fast – in preparation for that week's release of the final recommendations of the Expert Panel. Also on the agenda was the new one-year review of the Workers' Compensation System, and WSIB legislation and policies.

The Conference featured top-flight speakers and newsmakers, including: Tony Dean, Chair of Ontario's Expert Advisory Panel; Harry Arthurs, Chair of the WSIB's Funding Review; Terry Ison, Professor Emeritus, Osgoode Hall Law School; Hugh Mackenzie, Economist and Researcher, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives; Linda McQuaig, journalist and author; and others.



PRE-BUDGET SUBMISSION

OFL President Sid Ryan presented before the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs on January 31. Noting that this year's outlook for Ontarians remains highly uncertain, Ryan outlined labour's concerns, along with 23 recommendations for the upcoming budget. With almost 1.5 million Canadians out of work, Ontario is still short 49,000 jobs from pre-recession levels, and the quality of the "new" jobs is vastly different. Ryan told the committee that reducing the jobs deficit is more important than reducing the province's financial deficit. View the submission at: www.ofl.ca

MEETING WITH PREMIER DALTON MCGUINTY

On November 22, OFL President Sid Ryan, CLC President Ken Georgetti and CLC Secretary-Treasurer Hassan Yusef met with Ontario Premier

Dalton McGuinty to discuss retirement security. The group thanked the Premier for Ontario's supporting the plan to expand the Canada Pension Plan (CPP) and discussed proposals that would double benefits to ensure a better minimum pension for all Canadians - including an increase to the Guaranteed Income Supplement by 15 per cent. In addition, Ryan discussed the need to reinstate card check and anti-scab legislation.

MEETING WITH FINANCE MINISTER DWIGHT DUNCAN

For the first time in over a decade, Minister of Finance Dwight Duncan is holding regularly scheduled meetings with the 16 Heads of Unions to discuss labour's issues. The OFL's next quarterly meeting with the Minister is scheduled for Thursday, February 17 to discuss priorities for the Budget.



Panelists debate Ontario's future at Economic Summit

ONTARIO ECONOMIC SUMMIT

On November 3, OFL President Sid Ryan was invited as a panel speaker and guest by the Ontario Chamber of Commerce to its annual Economic Summit. The Chamber billed the event as one that “brings together some of the most successful and influential leaders from business, government, labour, NGOs, and academia in a collaborative effort to help build increased economic prosperity in Ontario.”

Ryan, who was asked to speak on “21st Century Workforce Strategies,” told the audience of 200 that meeting workers’ needs for life-long learning opportunities, good wages, pensions, workplaces

with high labour standards, and access to quality public services is crucial to ensuring a prosperous Ontario. He took issue with an increased reliance on precarious and temporary work and told employers that any future route to profits and productivity must ensure that workers benefit from their efforts.

Provincial Tory Leader Tim Hudak’s message to delegates laid out a plan that – like Mike Harris before him – embraced the politics of confrontation. The OFL’s media response to Hudak can be viewed on the OFL website.



NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE AND ACTION ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Sisters and brothers attended the OFL's December 6 seminar on Bill 168 amendments to Ontario's *Occupational Health and Safety Act*. The event, held to commemorate the 21st anniversary of the murder of 14 young women at the École Polytechnique in Montreal, focused on employers' obligations and the union's role in enforcement. OFL Secretary-Treasurer Marie Kelly emphasized the need for strong regulations and called on the labour movement to ensure the legislation is enforced. "We finally won legislative reform with these important amendments to the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*. They will help protect employees from workplace violence and harassment, including domestic violence. Now it is up to us to ensure our members know their rights and to go the rest of the distance," Kelly said. The seminar was delivered by the Workers' Health and Safety Centre.

CAMPAIGN FOR PUBLIC CHILD CARE

The Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care (OCBCC) and the OFL have launched a provincial tour that calls upon the province to make affordable child care a public priority. The government's upcoming budget must include \$100 million over the next two years to ensure the system remains accessible and affordable. Without it, child care activists warn that fees will increase from 15 to 30 per cent and some programs may be forced to close.

In Ontario, only 20 per cent of children have access to a licensed child care space. Without subsidies, like those in Manitoba and Québec that reduce fees to affordable levels, many Ontario parents are paying between \$40 and \$60 a day for each child. At this rate, child care fees can run between \$10,000 and \$15,000 a year and are often the second highest expense for young families.



The provincial tour began in Belleville and will travel to Peterborough, Hamilton, Thunder Bay, Windsor, Kitchener, Sudbury and Ottawa to sound the alarm that a new financial crisis threatens Ontario's early learning and child care programs.

OFL Secretary-Treasurer Marie Kelly spoke at the Belleville and Peterborough events and she is scheduled to speak in Hamilton and Sudbury. President Sid Ryan will speak in Thunder Bay, Windsor, Ottawa and Kitchener/Waterloo. Executive Vice-President Terry Downey will be speaking in Orillia.

The list of venues, times and dates can be viewed at www.ChildCareOntario.org.

Child Care

ONTARIO CAN'T WORK WITHOUT IT



www.childcareontario.org

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY, MARCH 8

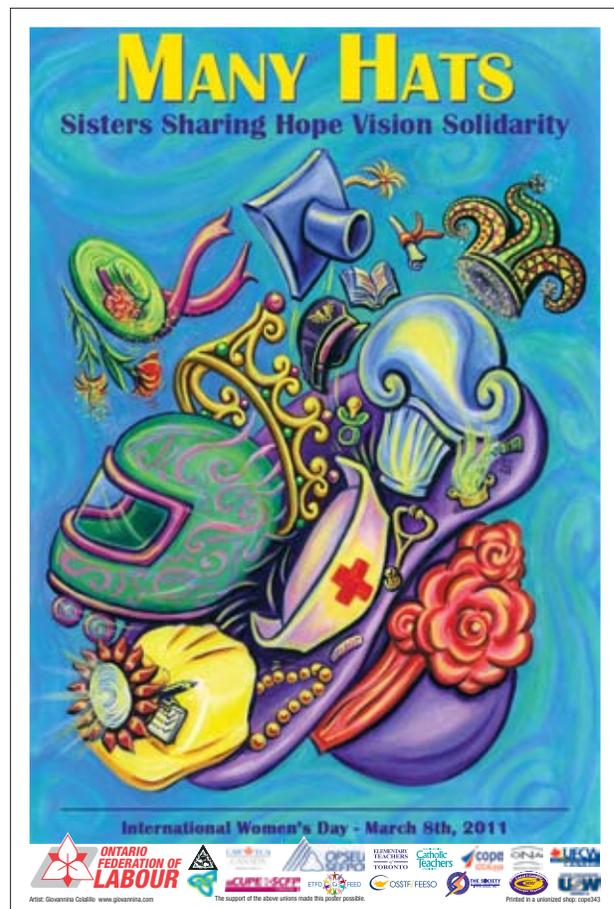


As part of the Celebration of International Women's Day (IWD), the OFL Women's Committee has produced a beautiful poster and commemorative pin to mark the 100th Anniversary of IWD on March 8.

The project reflects women's spirit, sisterhood and solidarity. Both the pin and poster are a work of art that our members and community would wear for many years. The theme reflects the many roles women play in our society; family, work and activist – "Many Hats: Sisters Sharing Hope Vision Solidarity."

Fifteen affiliates helped to sponsor the project through the pre-ordering of over 12,000 pins. Their logos have been featured on the final proof of the poster.

To download images of the materials or to order posters, visit the OFL website: www.OFL.ca.





New Communications Director Joel Duff



AIL's Daryl Barnett with OFL President Sid Ryan

PART 2: OFL SUPPORT

STAFFING RESOURCES

On September 27, the OFL Executive Board approved a new budget. As a result, the Federation was able to fill the Communications Director position. In January, we welcomed Joel Duff, former Ontario Organizer of the Canadian Federation of Students. His extensive knowledge of traditional and social media platforms, impressive record in media relations and fluency in French will help drive worker and union issues to the forefront of public attention.

The OFL also welcomed back Pam Frache, in a new capacity as the Research & Education Director. Congratulations to long-time staff member Sandra Clifford on assuming new responsibilities as the OFL's Director of Government Relations and Liaison to the President.

AMERICAN INCOME LIFE (AIL) DONATES 5,000 TO OFL FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

Daryl Barnett, Canadian Director Labour Relations, American Income Life (AIL), hands over a check for \$5,000 to OFL President Sid Ryan to support the Federation's scholarship program. Barnett notes that it is important that unions continue to grow and become an even stronger voice in shaping our society. "What better way to do that than to ensure that members and their children are able to learn and grow. We feel privileged to be able to support the OFL scholarship program."

Thank you Brother Daryl!

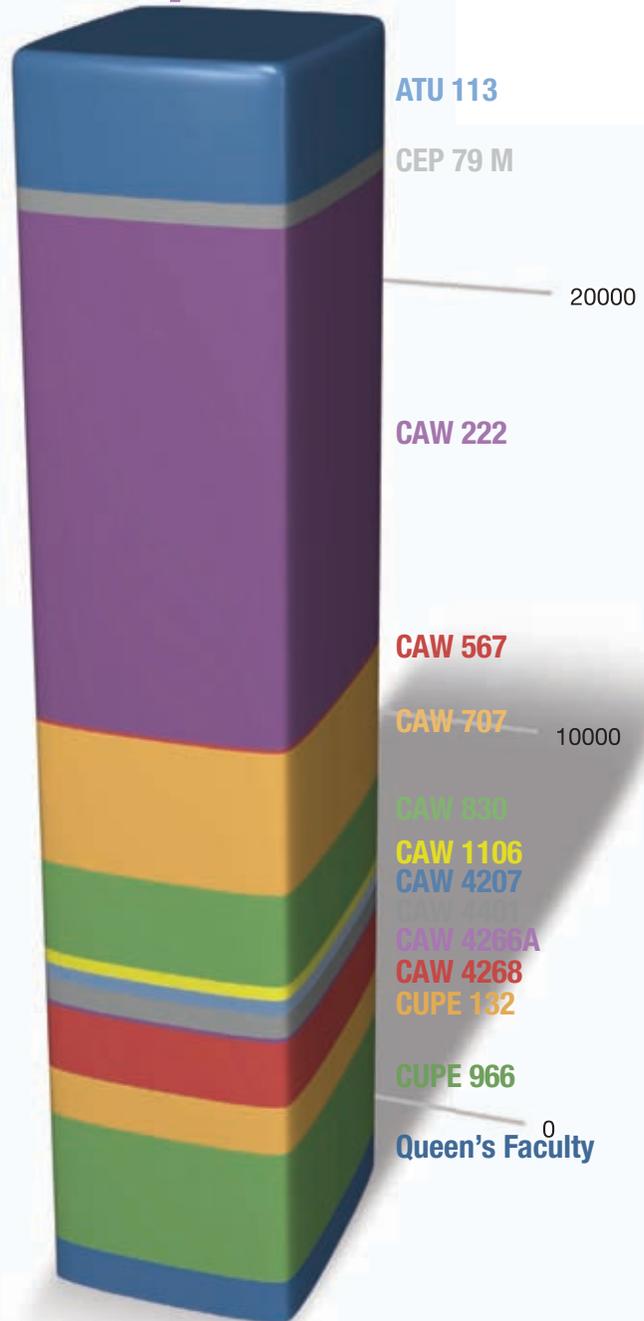
PART 3: AFFILIATIONS

OFL GROWS BY
26,052

25,000+ NEW MEMBERS PILE INTO THE OFL!

In five months, 26,052 new members have joined the OFL, and there's no end in sight as the Federation continues to field calls from locals around the province. This is GREAT news for Ontario's labour movement. With two elections to fight and major campaigns underway, we're determined to create a social movement that will change the social and economic landscape.

Welcome to our newest members from CAW Locals 222, 567, 830, 1106, 4207, 4266A, 4268 and 4401; CEP Local 79M; CUPE Local 132; and the Queen's University Faculty Association.



14 New Affiliates Since Sept 2010



UNITE HERE Local 75 members fight back

PART 4: AFFILIATE & LABOUR MOVEMENT SOLIDARITY

UNITE HERE LOCAL 75

The OFL is calling for full support for the union's request to avoid using the Hyatt Regency on King for any meetings or room bookings. Please move your events or reservations elsewhere and request that your members do the same. The hotel has been in a legal strike/lock out position since September 3, 2010. See the OFL's urgent February 3 email to affiliates for details, or contact UNITE/HERE Local 75 for further information.

UFCW AGRICULTURAL WORKERS

In December, the OFL sent its financial appeal on behalf of 136 Ontario farm workers who had not received pay and were returning home with empty pockets. Donations are still welcome and we urge all affiliates to assist these low-waged, and now impoverished, workers. Please make checks out to: Agricultural Workers Alliance, 300-61 International Blvd. Toronto, M9W 6K4.

For further information, Stan Raper, 416-675-1104 x 2232.

USW LOCAL 1005, HAMILTON

On November 22, 2010, OFL President Sid Ryan joined USW National Director for Canada Ken Neumann, Local 1005 President Rolf Gerstenberger, and members and retirees on the U.S. Steel picket line. On December 17, Brother Ryan spoke at the Hamilton USW Area Council; On January 27, he spoke at Local 1005's membership meeting.

HEALTH & SAFETY AWARDS

In November and December, 2010, OFL President Sid Ryan helped to honour activists committed to workplace health and safety, at events hosted by the following labour councils: Brampton & Mississauga, Kitchener-Waterloo/Guelph, Oakville, Peterborough.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHEER

OFL President Sid Ryan joined picket lines and union events during December to distribute Christmas dinners and toys to striking and locked out workers at OPSEU Local 426, Groupe Action, Rockland; USW 1-500, ECP, Brantford; USW Local 1005, U.S. Steel, Hamilton; and USW Local 526L, Infinity Rubber, Toronto. This was the seventh annual drive. It raised \$78,176 for eight locals, representing 1,329 workers.

USW LOCAL 9537, SEARS CANADA WORKERS

The OFL and its affiliates were out in full force November 8, in support of USW Local 9537 workers, locked out by Sears Canada. Both Secretary-Treasurer Marie Kelly and President Sid Ryan spoke to the crowd and called for anti-scab legislation and an end to the company's attempts to force across-the-board concessions. Sears employs 30,000 workers nationwide. Two per cent of its workforce is unionized, including the Vaughn workers. Over the last decade the company has consistently recorded annual profits of between \$100 and \$200 million.



USW Local 1005 members show their resolve



Ryan recognized by Local 1005



Two generations on the picket line in Hamilton



USW Local 9537 members won't give up



Migrant workers and allies energized by teach-ins and workshops

PART 5: COMMUNITY SOLIDARITY

INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT WORKERS DAY, DEC 18

The OFL and Labour Education Centre co-sponsored the December 18 celebration of International Migrant Workers Day. More than 70 people attended the event that included workshops, music and drama to highlight migrant workers' issues in Canada and worldwide. Participants grappled with how labour and community organizations could collectively support the struggles for dignity and respect. The United Nations International Convention for the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families entered into force in 2003. Prime Minister Stephen Harper has still not approved ratification of the UN Convention.

WOMEN'S LEGAL EDUCATION & ACTION FUND

President Sid Ryan met with the Executive Director of the Women's Legal Education Action Fund (LEAF) to assist the organization in its attempts to gain more secure finances. A financial appeal was sent to all affiliates in November. We continue to urge your maximum contributions to LEAF in support of its outstanding legal work on behalf of women's equality.

For information, see the OFL website, or Mary Wells, Executive Director, LEAF 416-595-7170 x225 or Toll free: 1-888-824-LEAF x5323.

SHANNEN'S DREAM

The broad-based campaign, of which the OFL is a part, is demanding the federal government immediately end the shameful discrimination faced by First Nations' children. On January 14, the OFL's Aboriginal Circle, Executive Vice-President Terry Downey and President Sid Ryan met with NDP MP Charlie Angus – who introduced the House of Commons Motion 571. Proposed in the name of the Aboriginal student activist Shannen Koostachin, the motion calls for the Harper government to end long-standing discriminatory practices that continue to impede Aboriginal youth in their desire for an education.

A public awareness campaign is underway with a National Day of Action set for April 27. A video highlighting the conditions in Attawapiskat is now available. Financial contributions are still needed. Full information is available on the OFL website.

G20 UPDATE

In the first of what will likely be many media releases, the OFL urged Toronto Police Association President Mike McCormack to actively advocate for the identification of officers involved in criminal behaviour during the G20.

“We do not accept that in a democratic state, the illegal behaviour of rogue police officers carrying guns and other deadly weapons and overwhelming the citizenry should be protected by a ‘code of silence’,” said OFL President Sid Ryan.

A second media release and press conference were in the works but were cancelled when a long-serving police officer was killed on the job. However, if Toronto Police Chief Bill Blair continues to thwart attempts to identify and lay charges against the police officers responsible, the OFL will join with the many community, civil liberty groups and members of the public that are calling for his resignation.



MP Charlie Angus discusses Shannen's Dream



Sister Downey attending OFL Aboriginal Circle



Aboriginal Circle brainstorms for campaigns

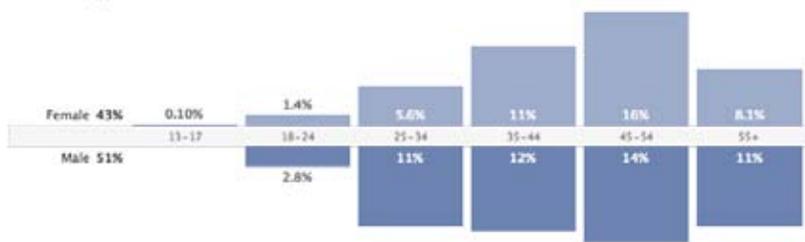


Civil Liberties rally calls for public inquiry

OFL FACEBOOK FAN PAGE ACTIVITY UP 69%



WHO FOLLOWS THE OFL ON FACEBOOK MIDDLE AGED MEN TRAIL WOMEN BY A HAIR



FOLLOWERS ACROSS ONTARIO (AND PITTSBURGH!)

221	Toronto	17	Kitchener
80	Burlington	16	Brampton
52	Ottawa	16	Pickering
44	Sudbury	16	Windsor
41	Hamilton	14	Mississauga
35	London	13	Chatham
30	Waterloo	12	Pittsburgh
29	Montreal	11	Halifax
17	Etobicoke	11	Markham

PART 6: ONLINE AND SOCIAL MEDIA PROFILE

PROMOTING LABOUR ONLINE

Since the beginning of the year, the OFL has begun to redefine its online profile through more regular updates to the website and an integration of social media tools. The OFL website now features icons linking to its Facebook, Twitter and Flickr accounts. Until a more interactive website can be developed, this integration will enable trade unionists, community members, media and government representatives to more easily follow the Federation's work and activity.

FACEBOOK: BUILDING AN ONLINE COMMUNITY

Facebook has moved beyond a simple social networking site and is fast becoming an organizing and outreach tool. Federation representatives and members are able to promote campaigns, events and solidarity actions within an online community. The OFL now has both a Profile Page and a Fan Page, which can be found at: www.Facebook.com/OntarioLabour.

OFL Facebook outreach is up by 69 per cent since the end of 2010. The number of followers to the OFL Fan Page has increased from 483 to nearly 1,000. An “Ontario Labour” Profile Page has also been created to manage the Fan Page and it has attracted nearly 600 followers.

New content is posted to the OFL Facebook sites nearly every day, with photo albums of events, news items and commentary. Through this medium, the Federation has been promoting the work of affiliates and many members have begun sharing our content with their own friends.

As an outreach strategy, the OFL has been releasing event-specific profile pictures to promote actions like the January 29 “People vs U.S. Steel” rally. Many people have chosen to use these OFL images as their own profile pictures and in doing so have helped to increase the profile of OFL activities.

TWITTER: GETTING THE MESSAGE OUT IN CYBER SPACE

One of the newest online tools to gain popularity is Twitter. Unlike Facebook, which is shared only by a community of people that is connected, Twitter allows users to broadcast messages and information to the public at large. It has become a go-to resource for members of government and the media, many of whom share their own commentary, but nearly all of whom turn to Twitter to learn of new and emerging stories.

By instantly releasing short messages, users are able to beat traditional media sources in breaking news. Users can repost (or “retweet”) each other’s comments to expand their reach. Twitter has recently been used by activists to organize actions that toppled the governments of Tunisia and Egypt.

In the past month, the OFL’s twitter account has launched into full swing. Twice as many updates were sent in one month as the entirety of last year. As a result, our base of loyal followers has leapt by 52.3 per cent. Follow the OFL at www.Twitter.com/OntarioLabour.

FLICKR: SHARING LABOUR PHOTOS

Ever more diligent at documenting our events and actions, the OFL has increased its efforts to upload photos to an online photo sharing website called Flickr.com. By sharing high-resolution photos online, affiliates and activists can use OFL images for their own organizing efforts.

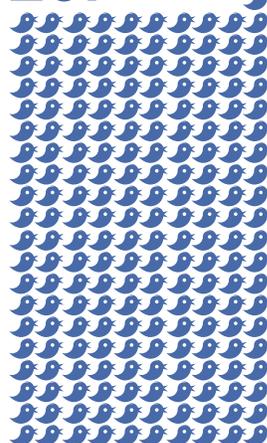
The OFL’s photos can be found at: www.Flickr.com/OntarioFedLabour

OFL Twitter Followers 2010 vs 2011



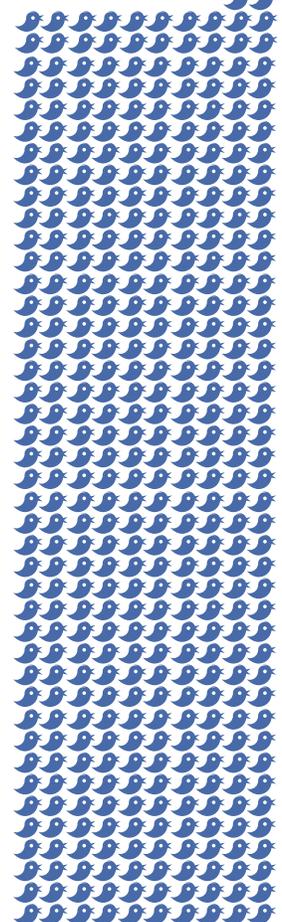
52.3%
more tweet

201



2010: 12 MONTHS

422



2011: 1 MONTH

THE OFL DAILY: LABOUR NEWS DIGEST

The OFL is one of a handful of organizations that have begun using a new online tool to pull together a digest of online articles, photos, videos and tweets that can be publicly viewed and shared. Paper.li is a free tool that allows subscribers to turn their Twitter account into a daily online newspaper.

The newspaper pulls content that is shared by the Twitter users that you frequent the most. Since the OFL Twitter account has been set up to almost exclusively follow affiliates and other labour unions, as well as labour and community activists, the OFL Daily has become a compendium of labour activism.

As can be seen from the sample below, posts from CUPE Ontario, ACORN CANADA, Jack Layton and the Ontario Minister of Labour and filmmaker Michael Moore might be featured on any given day.

The OFL Daily can be found at paper.li/OntarioLabour.

PART 7: EXTERNAL MEDIA

During this reporting period, 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 media outlets:

- 570 News
- 580 CFRA-AM Ottawa
- 600 CKAT-AM North Bay
- 680 News
- Aboriginal Peoples TV News Winnipeg
- AM640 Toronto Radio
- AM900 CHML Hamilton
- AM 900 CHML
- AM980 CFPL London
- CBC News Ottawa TV
- CBC News World
- CBC Radio One
- CBC Radio Two
- CBC TV
- CBET-TV
- CBLFT-TV
- CBON-FM Sudbury
- CBKF-FM Regina
- CBME-FM Montreal
- CBO-FM Ottawa
- CBR-AM Calgary
- CBX-AM Edmonton
- CFAV 1070 AM Victoria
- CFBG-FM Bracebridge
- CFBK-FM Huntsville
- CFJC TV 7
- CFNO-FM
- CFOB-FM Fort Frances
- CHCH-TV Hamilton
- CHEX TV
- CHIN Radio
- CHOK-FM Sarnia
- City TV
- CJBC-AM Toronto
- CJBQ-AM
- CKAP-FM Kapuskasing
- CKCO-TV Kitchener
- CKDO-AM
- CKGE-FM Oshawa
- CKLC-FM Kingston
- CKPC-AM
- CKWS-TV
- CP24
- CTS TV
- CTV
- CTV News Net
- EZ Rock
- Global TV
- KX96 New Country FM
- MIX 97-FM
- Moose FM Cochrane
- Newstalk 1010 CFRB AM
- Newstalk 610 St Catharines
- Oldies 1310 AM Ottawa
- OMNI TV
- Q104 CKPC-FM Brantford
- RCI Montreal
- RCI-R Montreal

A clippings compendium is appended to this report.



PART 8: IN RECOGNITION

OFL EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT BARRY STEVENS RETIRES

We say good-bye to long-time union activist and leader, Barry Stevens, of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, who retires from the OFL Executive Board this month. He has been a long-serving member of the OFL Apprenticeship Committee and became an OFL Executive Vice-President in January 2006.

Brother Barry led the IBEW's breakthrough campaign that successfully unionized electricians in the low-rise construction sector – a major accomplishment. There are still very few jurisdictions in North America with this distinction. In addition, Barry also spearheaded outreach to internationally trained electricians from China and created a program that enabled them to get their licenses and find employment. Brother Barry was elected to IBEW Local 353 Executive Board in 1996. He became President in 2005.

“Barry’s a straight talker. You always know where he stands and where you stand with him. He’s also a leader with a big vision that encompasses manufacturing, public sector workers and all workers. He’ll be sorely missed around the table,” said OFL President Sid Ryan.



PART 9: UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY 18: WSIB FUNDING REVIEW DEADLINE

Deadline for submitting applications for scheduled presentations to the WSIB Funding Review.

FEBRUARY 24 & 25: BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION

A Black History Month celebration will be co-sponsored by the OFL, CLC, PSAC and Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU) in the OFL Auditorium of the OFL Building. The events will begin on Thursday, February 24 at 5 p.m. and will feature Adrienne Shadd, Carmen Henry and Natasha Henry as keynote speakers, followed by a buffet dinner and social. The acclaimed exhibition “And Still I Rise: A History of African Canadian Workers in Ontario,” will be on view both days. This travelling exhibit, originally developed by the Workers’ Arts and Heritage Centre, explores the rich legacy of Ontario’s Black Community. Full details of the event are available on the OFL website.

MARCH 8: INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY

This year marks the 100th anniversary of International Women’s Day. Events will take place in communities across Ontario on March 8 and in the week following.

MARCH 25 & 26: OFL WORKERS OF COLOUR ASSEMBLY AND EDUCATIONAL

This year's OFL Workers of Colour Assembly is co-sponsored by the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, Latin American Trade Unionists Coalition and the Asian Canadian Labour Alliance. See the OFL website for registration materials, or contact OFL Human Rights Director Janice Gairey at 416-443-7687 or jgairey@ofl.ca.

APRIL 18-20: OFL WOMEN'S COMMITTEE RETREAT

The OFL Women's Committee will be hosting a retreat at the CAW Education Centre in Port Elgin to develop a 2011-2012 work plan.

Stay tuned for details and registration information.

APRIL 27: NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION IN SUPPORT OF SHANNEN'S DREAM

A national day of action will be organized on April 27 to promote the Shannen's Dream campaign.

For more information, OFL Human Rights Director Janice Gairey at 416-443-7687 or jgairey@ofl.ca.

APRIL 28: DAY OF MOURNING FOR WORKERS KILLED AND INJURED ON THE JOB

Events are being planned in communities around the province. Information will be posted on the web site as it becomes available.

MAY 3: MAY DAY & SOUTH ASIAN HERITAGE MONTH CELEBRATION

The OFL and CLC Ontario will sponsor a May Day event hosted by the Council of Agencies Serving South Asians (CASSA) at the OFL Auditorium. Details to follow.

MAY 9-13: CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS CONVENTION

26th Constitutional Convention of the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) will be held at the Vancouver Convention Centre from May 9 to 13, 2011.

The deadline for receiving resolutions is February 23, 2011. The deadline for receiving credentials is April 8, 2011.

JUNE 17-19: OFL 2ND ABORIGINAL CIRCLE GATHERING

The OFL's second Aboriginal Circle Gathering, "Walking in Our Moccasins," will be hosted at the CAW Family Education Centre in Port Elgin from June 17 to 19, 2011. Stay tuned to the OFL website for registration information and materials.

in memoriam



ROBERT MACKENZIE | June 26, 1928 January 17, 2011

Ontario loses working class hero with passing of Bob Mackenzie

Trade unionists and working people lost a tireless champion this week with the passing of Ontario's first NDP labour minister, Bob Mackenzie. An outspoken advocate for workers' rights and social justice, Bob was a "people's politician" who continued to take principled stances throughout his career while serving his constituents with gentleness and humility. He will be greatly missed by people throughout the province who saw him as a working class hero who led a remarkable life that was committed to equity and fairness.

Bob was a lifelong union member who worked briefly as an organizer for the United Auto Workers (UAW) in the 1950s and spent many years on staff of the United Steelworkers (USW) through the 1960s and 70s. In 1975, he was elected to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, where he served the people of Ontario as a New Democratic Party member for two decades. Bob acted as the NDP Labour Critic from 1985 to 1990 and, after helping to form the first NDP government in the province's history, he served as Minister of Labour from 1990 to 1995. While in government, Bob never forgot his values. He helped to usher in minimum wage increases, pay equity legislation, wage protection and union rights for farm workers. One of his most significant accomplishments was the introduction of Bill 40, legislation that improved workers' access to union protection and banned replacement workers during strikes. Although Premier Mike Harris later eliminated these protections and gutted workers' rights and social programs, the achievements of Bob Mackenzie set a standard that continues to guide the labour movement today.

"No other politician before or since has declared himself the Minister FOR Labour," said Sid Ryan, President of the Ontario Federation of Labour. "Mackenzie was a firebrand who was an activist first and a politician second. People throughout Ontario knew that they had a champion in the legislature no matter where he was sitting – in opposition or in government. He was a true icon for the labour movement and a working class hero if ever there was one."

Known as "Bob" to his friends and allies, Robert W. Mackenzie passed away peacefully at the Hamilton General Hospital on Monday, with family members at his side and in the city that he loved. Throughout his career, Bob was guided by his heart - the same heart that finally gave way this week. He was a true inspiration and his spirit will live on in our memories.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the Hamilton Health Sciences Foundation (Box 739, LCD 1, Hamilton ON L8N 3M8, email@hamiltonhealth.ca) or to the New Democratic Party of Ontario (101 Richmond Street East, Toronto ON M5C 1N9, www.ontariodp.com). There will be a private funeral service for the family, but a public memorial event will be announced soon.

Please sign the online Book of Condolences at www.baygardens.ca.



**ONTARIO
FEDERATION OF
LABOUR**