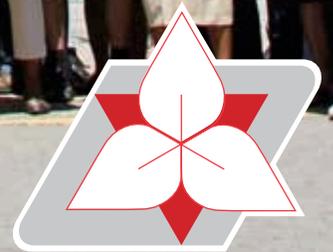


**HEALTH, SAFETY &
COMPENSATION ISSUE**



PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Ontario Federation of Labour Executive Board Meeting, June 7, 2011

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

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

General inquiries regarding this document should be directed to:

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

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

Telephone: 416-441-2731

Fax: 416-441-1893

Toll-Free: 800-668-9138

Email: info@ofl.ca

TDD: 416-443-6305

Web: www.OFL.ca

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ontario Federation of Labour

Executive Board Meeting, June 7, 2011

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PART 1: CAMPAIGNS & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS.....	1
Injured Workers Declare: "NO MORE CAP IN HAND"	1
Arthurs Commission Reviews WSIB Funding	2
Bill 160 Receives Royal Assent	3
Day of Mourning.....	4
Kill a Worker, Go to Jail Campaign.....	4
May Day Rally for Manufacturing Jobs & Pensions	5
NDP Rocks Federal Election	6
Ontario NDP 50 th Anniversary Gala	8
EQUITY & HUMAN RIGHTS	9
Women's Strategy Meeting	9
Asian Heritage Month	9
Challenging Sexual Harassment and Making Workplaces Safe for Women .	10
Challenging Homophobia & Transphobia	11
OFL Countdown to Pride	11
Promoting Child and Youth Mental Health	11
Shannen's Dream.....	12
PART 2: OFL SUPPORT.....	13
Director Sandra Clifford Returns to OFL from Jack Layton's Campaign.....	13
OFL Recruits New Digital SLR Camera.....	13
OFL's New Injured Worker Integration Program Backed by a New Team	14
OFL Labour Honour Roll	15
PART 3: AFFILIATIONS	16
OFL Membership Leaps By Over 70,000!.....	16
PART 4: AFFILIATE & LABOUR MOVEMENT SOLIDARITY	17
CLC Convention Gives Boost to Good Jobs Campaign.....	17
Toronto Fight Continues Against Privatizing Garbage Collection.....	18
Posties Rotate Strikes.....	20
USW 1-500 Workers Win Severance Settlement Offer from ECP	21
USW 1-1000 Solidarity Rally in Pembroke	21

PART 5: COMMUNITY & INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY	22
LEAF Awards Reception	22
Canadians for Tax Fairness	22
Campaign to Save our Jails	23
G20 Redux: Fundamental Freedoms Festival	23
Campaign to Stop Wage Theft	24
Literacy Award Nomination	24
PART 6: ONLINE AND SOCIAL MEDIA PROFILE	25
Promoting Labour Online	25
Facebook: Building an Online Labour Community	25
YouTube: Online Labour Television	26
Twitter: Spreading the Word	26
Flickr: Sharing Labour Photos	26
The OFL Daily: Labour News Digest	26
PART 7: EXTERNAL MEDIA	27
PART 8: UPCOMING EVENTS	28
Month of June: Pride Events	28
June 17-19: OFL Aboriginal Circle 2 nd Gathering	28
June 17-19: Federal NDP Convention	28
June 25: G20 Redux Rally	28
Sept. 5: Labour Day	29
Sept. 15: Pay Equity “101” Bargaining Workshops	29
Sept. 13: Rally for Health Care	29
Sept. 28: Workshop on Ontario Human Rights Tribunal	29
Oct. 6: Ontario Election	29
Nov. 20-25: OFL Convention	29
PART 9: PHOTO CREDITS	29
PART 10: IN RECOGNITION	30
Janice Gairey Recognized with Bromley Armstrong Award	30

HELP RECOGNIZE FALLEN ITALIAN WORKERS!

Retired labour activists Marino Toppan (LIUNA Local 506) and Fortunato Rao (USW) are working hard to erect a memorial to fallen Italian workers who were killed as a result of work accidents or industrial diseases.

Please donate generously to this project to ensure that the hundreds of fallen Italian workers can be memorialized.

Cheques should be made payable to COMITES (RE: MEMORIAL) & mailed to: 3010 Dufferin Street, Unit 2, Toronto, Ontario M6B 4J5

Contact Marino Toppan: 905-230-2155 or matinotoppan@hotmail.com



Dedicated injured workers camped out at Queen's Park in advance of Injured Workers' Day
FRONT & BACK COVERS: Injured Workers' Day rally at Queen's Park draws hundreds

PART 1: CAMPAIGNS & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Injured Workers Declare: "NO MORE CAP IN HAND"

Hundreds of injured workers brought their message to Queen's Park on June 1st to mark Injured Worker's Day with music, performances, heart-breaking stories, and hard-hitting political messages. The OFL proudly lent its support to the Toronto Injured Workers Advocacy Group (TIWAG) and the Ontario Network of Injured Worker Groups (ONIWG) who dedicated the day's events to the poverty facing injured workers in Ontario.

The OFL hosted a media conference calling on Premier McGuinty to make "employers, not taxpayers, pay for injured workers." The event featured OFL President Sid Ryan, injured worker Maryam Nazemi and workers' compensation legal expert David Wilken. The OFL released a backgrounder on workers' compensation that drew attention to the fact that roughly 28 percent of employers in Ontario get a free ride from the Ontario government by not paying into the province's workplace health and safety prevention and enforcement systems. The nearly 38 percent of workers left out of Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) benefits, are forced to turn to taxpayer funded social programs for support when they are injured on the job.

"Too often, workers in unprotected sectors are left with no option for compensation outside of costly legal battles with employers who have the resources to fight back," said OFL President Sid Ryan. "These workers, many of whom are women, must rely on taxpayer support through social assistance and the provincial health care system, instead of the employer who injured them."



OFL President Sid Ryan



Terri Aversa (OPSEU) & Peter Page (ONIWG)

The OFL called on the McGuinty government to:

- Put an end to the poverty facing injured workers;
- Extend mandatory WSIB coverage for all workers, in all sectors;
- Restore injured workers benefits to the full cost of living;
- Eliminate experience rating; and
- Eliminate “deeming” and practices that limit injured workers’ post-injury benefits.

“It is shameful that so many injured workers are being driven into poverty and hardship because there is no government protection for them,” said Maryam Nazemi, an Early Childhood Educator who was injured on the job in 2004 but was ineligible for workers’ compensation benefits because her sector was excluded from coverage.

The rally that followed the media conference drew hundreds, who gathered to recognize injured workers, share experiences with the WSIB and voice their frustrations at its limitations. Ryan joined an impressive roster of injured workers and advocates in calling on Ontario’s Labour Minister Charles Sousa and WSIB Chair Steve Mahoney to end the unjust and discriminatory treatment of injured workers.

NDP Members of Provincial Parliament Peter Kormos, Paul Miller, Michael Prue and Peter Tabuns joined the rally and pledged their support for the demands of injured workers.

Arthurs Commission Reviews WSIB Funding

The Funding Review of the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) completed its second phase last month. Commission Chief Harry Arthurs, former Dean of Osgood Hall Law School at York University, conducted public consultations across Ontario to hear from unions, legal clinics, injured worker groups, individual injured workers and employers.

The OFL presented before the panel on April 26 to raise concerns about deeming, universal coverage, cost-of-living indexing of benefits and experience rating. Other labour organizations also made presentations, including CAW and Locals 112, 636 and 707, CUPE Ontario and Local 1750, ETFO, ONA, OSSTF District 9, UFCW Local 1000A, USW District 6 and Local 6500, Sudbury and District Labour Council, Thunder Bay and District Labour Council. As well, Professor Arthurs also heard from ONIWG, legal clinics that specialize in workers compensation and the Office of the Worker Advisor.

Most raised concern with the scope of the funding review, which excluded the 38 percent of workers currently not covered by the system. If all employers paid into WSIB, it is estimated that an additional \$500 million in revenue would be realized.

The OFL and other worker organizations that made presentations will be meeting with Professor Arthurs on June 23.



Bill 160 Receives Royal Assent

In the wake of the “Christmas Eve” tragedy in 2009, the OFL played a critical role in instigating the Expert Panel on Occupational Health and Safety and ensuring that its recommendations became law.

However, when Bill 160, *Occupational Law Amendment Act*, was first proposed, the OFL and its affiliates raised significant concerns over components of the legislation that limited the powers of the Chief Prevention Officer and inspectors, undermined the reprisal protection for workers, and threatened the autonomy of the Workers Health and Safety Centre (WHSC) and the Occupational Health Clinics for Ontario Workers (OHCOW).

OFL President Sid Ryan warned Minister Sousa: “If we don’t see both the spirit and content of the Expert Panel recommendations reflected in the government’s amendments, the labour movement will have no alternative but to attempt to kill the Bill. The life and health of every worker is at stake.”

The OFL coordinated a letter-writing campaign to legislators calling for amendments to the proposed legislation and, on April 19, Ryan presented the OFL’s recommendations to the government’s Standing Committee on Social Policy.

As a result of this lobbying campaign, the Bill was adopted unanimously by the Ontario Legislative Assembly on May 18 with several amendments and it received Royal Assent on June 1.

OPSEU was also able to work out a framework with government to allow for the consistent enforcement of the legislation among all Ministry staff dealing with enforcement responsibilities, not just inspectors. In addition, other amendments ensured:

- The retention of power in the office of the Chief Prevention Officer (CPO), with the exception of certain Ministerial fiduciary powers;
- The elimination of the more significant threats to the autonomy of WHSC and OHCOW, which will allow the labour movement to focus on the development of standards;
- The removal of legislative barriers that would prevent inspectors from testifying on behalf of a worker; and
- The removal of barriers placed on Joint Health and Safety Committee Co-Chair recommendations.

One outstanding concern relates to the government’s insistence that the permanent Prevention Council include representation for non-union workers. The OFL has insisted that such representation be provided through an organization that advocates on behalf of non-union workers. Without a democratic mandate, individually appointed workers will be accountable only to those making the appointments—not to non-union workers themselves.

It is expected that the first Chief Prevention Officer will be hired in July. Some of the provisions of the legislation will take effect immediately, while others will take effect in April 2012. Certain legislative changes have been left open in the hope that they can be proclaimed prior to next April.

The Ministry has established working groups to support the Interim Prevention Council (IPC) in implementing the Expert Panel recommendations. The OFL and several affiliates will be meeting with the working groups later this month.

View Sid Ryan’s Presentation on Bill 160, visit: www.Youtube.com/OntarioFedLabour



Ryan addresses Toronto Day of Mourning



Day of Mourning

On April 28, the OFL marked the day of Mourning for Workers Killed or Injured on the Job by issuing a public statement calling attention to the alarming 490 fatality claims and 242,371 reported injuries that occurred in Ontario last year alone.

Unfortunately, that terrible cost is borne by workers and their families. In many non-union workplaces, workers are not informed of their health and safety rights, or if they are, keep silent for fear of reprisal.

OFL President Sid Ryan attended day of mourning events hosted by the Northumberland Labour Council, the Waterloo Regional Labour Council and the Toronto and York Region Labour Council. Executive Vice-President Terry Downey attended the Smith Falls event hosted by the Lanark District Labour Council. Staff of the OFL also attended events hosted by labour councils in various regions of the province.

Read the OFL statement on the Day of Mourning at: www.OFL.ca

Kill a Worker, Go to Jail Campaign

Workers hearts sank in early April when the Crown Attorney decided to drop the federal criminal charges against Sault Ste. Marie's Millennium Crane Rental and its owner for the death of worker James Vecchio.

"It is a disgraceful failure of the government and the judicial system that Bill C-45 has never resulted in the successful prosecution of an Ontario employer for a workplace death or injury," said OFL President Sid Ryan. "We need a commitment from every police chief, legislator and Crown Attorney in Ontario that tragedies like this will never happen again."

The OFL remains hopeful that the C-45 criminal charges laid against Metron Construction, its owner Joel Swartz and others associated with the 2009 Christmas Eve deaths of four workers in Toronto will be maintained.

Ryan sent individual letters to the Attorney General, the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) and two-dozen of Ontario's police chiefs calling on them to use their utmost efforts to stop the carnage. In particular, he asked police chiefs to work with the OFL to train police officers in workplace health and safety and the application of the criminal code amendments made by C-45.

Since the letters were sent in mid-April, responses have been received from several police forces, including the OPP and municipal forces in Hamilton, London, Toronto and Waterloo. OFL Health and Safety Director Vern Edwards has since met with both the London and Waterloo police departments to discuss the implementation of training on C-45.

"The OFL's campaign will not stop until bosses and CEOs learn that if they endanger the lives of workers, they will go to jail," said Ryan.

May Day Rally for Manufacturing Jobs & Pensions

On Sunday, May 1, the day before the federal election, OFL President Sid Ryan joined thousands of locked-out members of USW 1005, the Ottawa and District Labour Council and many other union members and allies in a mass rally on Parliament Hill to call for protection of the manufacturing sector, good jobs and pensions for all workers.

The protesters demonstrated their frustration at the Harper government's indifference to U.S. Steel's aggressive attack on 900 employees and 9,000 retirees and its failure to hold the foreign-owned company accountable to its legal obligations.

"Stephen Harper betrayed Hamilton steelworkers when he allowed a foreign-owned company to renege on its obligation to protect over 3,000 jobs and he betrayed every worker in Canada when he broke his promise to expand the CPP," OFL President Sid Ryan told the crowd.

The OFL has been solidly supporting the members of USW 1005 since they were first locked-out eight months ago. The May Day rally helped keep the pressure on U.S. Steel—and Stephen Harper.



May Day rally rocks the Hill



USW 1005 President Rolf Gerstenberger



Three presidents on the Hill: Sid Ryan (OFL), Sean McKenny (Ottawa & District Labour Council) & Denis Lemelin (CUPW)



NDP Rocks Federal Election

In the historic 41st election, Canadians saw Jack Layton's NDP seize a record number of seats across Canada and claim the place of Official Opposition for the first time in history. The incredible inroads made by the NDP in Québec helped to deliver nearly half of their 103 seats and demonstrated that the NDP is the only party capable of uniting Canada.

The near demise of the Bloc Québécois was almost matched by the dramatic collapse of the Liberal Party of Canada in the last week of the election. Many voters fled from the tanking Liberals and gave Stephen Harper the artificial boost he needed to secure the majority government that pollsters had predicted was lost to him.

The OFL supported the NDP throughout the election and, in the final week, President Sid Ryan released a President's Action Update calling on all trade unionists to give their support to local NDP candidates.

Layton's new team is filled with union leaders, environmentalists, feminists, housing experts, lawyers and anti-poverty activists. Their clout, experience and community connections will be a significant help in the coming battle with Stephen Harper and will provide the resources and momentum needed to make similar inroads in the upcoming Ontario general election.

NDP's Orange Wave ... BY THE NUMBERS

4.5 million+ number of Canadians who voted NDP

30 percentage of voters who cast their ballot for the NDP

103 number of NDP MPs elected

121 ridings where the NDP finished second

41 percentage of women NDP MPs elected (the highest of all parties)

Historic Break Through for Labour

The labour movement played a central role in Jack Layton's "Orange Wave" that swept Canada. Riding on the crest of that wave were a large number of tough-minded labour candidates who were swept into office across the country. Many of the union leaders elected on May 2 were recognized in Layton's new "Shadow Cabinet," announced on May 26. By the OFL count, it would appear that 20 of 43 members of the Shadow Cabinet have roots in the labour movement.

Congrats to Canada's new Labour Cabinet!*

Alliance of Canadian Cinema, Television and Radio Artists (ACTRA)

- Charlie Angus (Timmins—James Bay): Ethics, Access to Information, Privacy & Copyright and Digital Issues
- Tyrone Benskin (Jeanne Le Ber): Canadian Heritage

Canadian Auto Workers (CAW)

- Malcolm Allen (Welland): Agriculture and Agri-Food
- Joe Comartin (Windsor—Temcumseh): Justice
- Peggy Nash (Parkdale—High Park): Finance
- Claude Patry (Jonquière—Alma): Employment Insurance (Human Resources and Skills Development)
- Peter Stoffer (Sackville—Eastern Shore): Veterans Affairs

Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union of Canada (CEP)

- Wayne Marston (Hamilton East—Stoney Creek): Pensions (Minister of State)

Manitoba Carpenters Union

- Pat Martin (Winnipeg Centre): Canadian Wheat Board

Centrale des Syndicats Démocratiques

- Marjolaine Boutin-Sweet (Hochelaga): Skills, Human Resources and Skills Development

Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE)

- Alexandre Boulerice (Rosemont—La Petite-Patrie): Treasury Board
- Robert Chisholm (Darmouth—Cole Harbour): International Trade
- Libby Davies (Vancouver East): Health, Deputy Leader
- Rathika Sitsabaiesan (Scarborough- Rouge River): Post-secondary Education, Human Resources and Skills Development

Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario (ETFO)

- Paul Dewar (Ottawa Centre): Foreign Affairs

Ontario Secondary Schools Teachers Federation (OSSTF)

- Irene Mathysen (London-Fanshawe): Seniors, Minister of State

Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC)

- Nycole Turmel (Hull-Aylmer): Public Works and Government Services, National Caucus Chair

Teamsters

- Don Davies (Vancouver Kingsway): Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism

United Auto Workers

- Dave Christopherson (Hamilton Centre): Democratic Reform, Minister of State

United Steelworkers

- Yvon Godin (Acadie—Bathurst): Labour; Official Languages

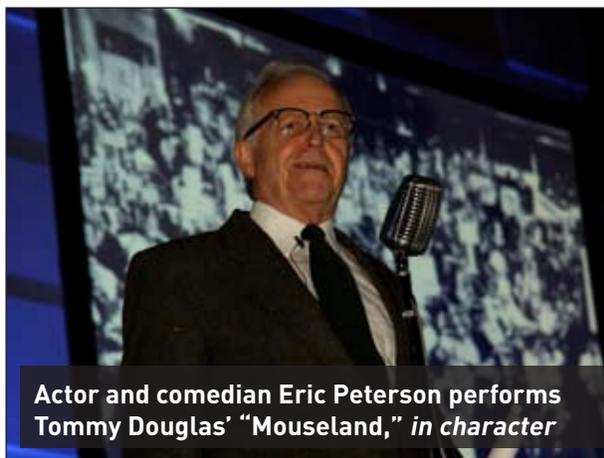
(*If any other names should be included in this list, please email them to Communications@OFL.ca)



Sid Ryan and Jack Layton on the CUPE 966 Flying Squad bus at an Ontario tour stop



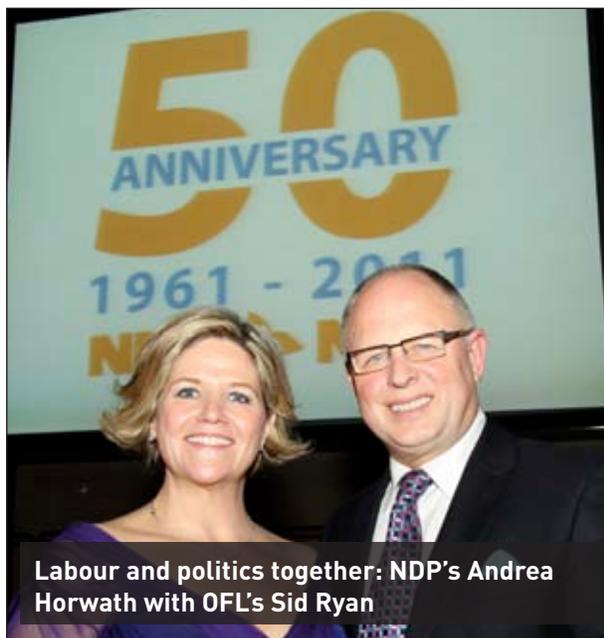
Ontario NDP Gala attracts labour and political activists across the generations



Actor and comedian Eric Peterson performs Tommy Douglas' "Mouseland," in character

Ontario NDP 50th Anniversary Gala

This year marks half a century of a strong labour voice in Ontario politics. The New Democratic Party has a proud history of standing up for working women and men, and advocating for issues that matter to every Ontario community. With an inspiring 50-year history, Jack Layton's historic federal electoral breakthrough and the recent election of Andrea Horwath as the first woman leader of Ontario's New Democrats, there is a lot to celebrate in 2011.



Labour and politics together: NDP's Andrea Horwath with OFL's Sid Ryan

The Ontario NDP celebrated its 50th anniversary on April 28 with a special anniversary gala that brought together party members, supporters, and elected representatives from across generations. Hosted by actor and comedian Eric Peterson, the evening featured a retrospective of the party's history, which was forged from the uniting of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation (CCF) and Ontario's labour movement.

OFL Officers Sid Ryan and Terry Downey were joined by several Directors to help mark the event. The Federation's two-page ad was featured in the commemorative book produced especially for the evening. The ad illustrated the party's historical marriage between labour and working-class politics by featuring former OFL President David Archer at the founding convention of the Ontario NDP.



EQUITY & HUMAN RIGHTS

Women's Strategy Meeting

The OFL Women's Committee held its annual strategy session from April 18 to 20 at the CAW Family Education Centre in Port Elgin. OFL Secretary-Treasurer Marie Kelly and Executive Vice-President Terry Downy joined fifty-three sisters from the OFL Women's Committee, Executive Board and Council, equity committees and union leadership in the development of a work plan for 2011-2012.

The central focus of the Women's Committee will be on the fundamental role played by unions in advancing women's equality. The Committee resolved to work toward labour law reform to remove barriers to a woman's right to join a union. They also decided to work to integrate women's issues in the OFL campaigns, with particular attention to pay equity, child care and workplace violence.

The Committee recommended that the OFL Executive Board launch a Pay Equity campaign in September 2011 to raise awareness of the wage gap faced by both unionized and non-union women. The Committee also resolved to develop a "Violence Against Women" Activists' Guide to Bill 168 Amendments. The Guide is intended to extend the historic achievements secured by the OFL

through the workplace, domestic violence and anti-harassment amendments to the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*. The Guide will provide information and tools to help labour activists press employers to properly implement the legislation.

In addition, the Committee committed to developing "Women's Vote 2011" materials that will supplement the central campaigns of the OFL during the upcoming Ontario election.

Asian Heritage Month

The OFL helped to celebrate and recognize Asian Heritage Month by releasing a statement that highlighted the contributions of labour activists from the Asian community and drawing attention to the precarious employment conditions and racism still faced by many Asian workers.

The OFL also co-hosted a Council of Agencies Serving South Asians (CASSA) awards night with the Canadian Labour Congress and a number of affiliates. The event drew a crowd of nearly a hundred and recognized the contribution of South Asian labour activists and allies.

Read the OFL statement: www.OFL.ca



Hotel housekeepers speak out against sexual harassment in the workplace

Challenging Sexual Harassment and Making Workplaces Safe for Women

During Sexual Harassment Awareness Week, OFL President Sid Ryan was approached by UNITE HERE Local 75 to help raise awareness about the dangers to personal safety faced by hotel housekeepers. A predominantly female workforce, hotel housekeepers are often new immigrants and racialized workers who are particularly vulnerable in their workplaces.

The safety of hotel housekeepers received international attention after Dominique Strauss-Khan – the former chief of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) – was charged in New York City with allegedly attempting to sexually assault a housekeeper last month. However, the case simply shed new light on the daily reality of many women workers, for whom the risk of sexual harassment and assault is a regular workplace hazard.

OFL President Sid Ryan appeared at the media conference with unionized and non-unionized housekeepers to call for better industry regulations and legislative reform that would benefit all women workers.

“It is no surprise to me that the brave women coming forward to speak up about their experiences of harassment are members of a labour union.

Without the protection of a union, many women who have been victimized are afraid of employers who think the ‘customer is always right.’ This isn’t just an issue of workplace safety, it is also an issue of equity,” said OFL President Sid Ryan.

With UNITE HERE, the OFL called on the Government of Ontario to introduce better security measures and workplace training and to properly enforce legislation, including Bill C-45 provisions in the *Criminal Code of Canada*, and the implementation of card-based union certification to remove the barriers to collective organizing. The event received significant media attention.

To officially mark June 1 to 7 as Sexual Harassment Awareness Week, the OFL also released a statement on the importance of addressing violence in the workplace.

“Workers now have the right to refuse work if they believe they are at risk of violence and employers must take precautions to protect workers from domestic violence that crosses into the workplace, but much more remains to be done,” said OFL Secretary-Treasurer Marie Kelly.

Read the OFL statement: www.OFL.ca



OFL Secretary-Treasurer at the microphone at the Vancouver CLC Convention



OECTA President James Ryan calls for an end to the bullying of LGBT youth

Challenging Homophobia & Transphobia

On May 17, the OFL issued a statement on the International Day for the Elimination of Homophobia and Transphobia and supported a fundraising breakfast for EGALE Canada that was sponsored by CUPE Ontario. The event was well attended and featured Canadian actor Jordan Todosey, who portrays a transgendered character named “Adam” on the hit TV show, *Degrassi*.

The breakfast also served as a launch for the organization’s new campaign against homophobia, transphobia and school bullying, called MyGSA.ca.

James Ryan from the Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association (OECTA) gave a passionate speech in support of the campaign and pledged the support of his union in eradicating homophobic and transphobic bullying in public schools.

OFL President Sid Ryan gave greetings and solidarity from the labour movement and headed up the fundraising part of the breakfast, which generated many thousands of dollars to support the campaign against homophobia and transphobia.

Read the OFL statement: www.OFL.ca

View Sid Ryan’s remarks to EGALE: www.YouTube.com/OntarioFedLabour

OFL Countdown to Pride

The right to dignity, justice, equality and a life free from all forms of discrimination is a major priority for the labour movement. The struggle for the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans-identified people and for the recognition of their families has been an essential part of our work.

The OFL’s Solidarity & Pride Committee is helping to promote 2011 Pride events across the province through the publication of a comprehensive list that can be found at www.ofl.ca

Promoting Child and Youth Mental Health

In March, the Ontario Action Network on Child and Youth Mental Health was formed by a coalition of youth, parents, service providers, unions and other partners committed to ending the crisis in child and youth mental health. The need for such a Network was identified at a 2009 conference co-sponsored by the OFL and is the result of the ongoing efforts of such groups as OPSEU, CUPE and other community partners.

The Network has developed their *Take a Stand for Child & Youth Mental Health* campaign for the October 6, 2011 provincial election. The goal is to



OFL Officer Terry Downey calls on CLC Convention to support Shannen's Dream

make child and youth mental health a major issue in the election. Local coalitions and activists will approach candidates and ask them to take a stand in support of this important issue.

For more information and to get involved please contact the Network at www.takingastand.ca

Shannen's Dream

On April 27, the OFL joined the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO), students and educators across the country in calling on the federal government to improve the quality of schools on First Nations reserves in Canada. The Day of Action culminated in a rally on Parliament Hill that was headed up by the students of Ottawa's Lady Evelyn Alternative School in Ottawa.

Executive Vice-President Terry Downey joined the students in delivering hundreds of letters in support of the Shannen's Dream campaign.

"In the provincial system every child in Canada and every provincial jurisdiction is guaranteed the fundamental right to an education. None of those rights exist for First Nations children," said Downey. "No mother or father would let their child study in a moldy trailer, so we need to fight until all children have access to safe and comfy schools."

The campaign was launched in the memory of Shannen Koostachin, the courageous 15-year-old leader in the Attawapiskat School Campaign who died in a tragic accident in the summer of 2010.



Primary school children call on Canadian government to support First Nations students



Students put letters supporting Shannen's Dream in school house mail box



NDP MP and former ETFO activist Paul Dewar pledges support for the right to education

PART 2: OFL SUPPORT



Director Sandra Clifford Returns to OFL from Jack Layton's Campaign

Although a little exhausted, OFL Government Relations Director and Liaison to the President Sandra Clifford returned from the NDP campaign trail still beaming with the glow of recent victory.

"The OFL was honoured to grant a request from Jack Layton to book Sandra off to work on his cross-country election tour, but we had no idea how important the campaign would become," said OFL President Sid Ryan.

In her capacity as Wagoneer, Clifford helped to ensure that Layton's tour ran smoothly as he delivered the NDP's message of unity across the country. She has many inspiring stories from the thousands of tour stops but few compare to the reception received in Québec.

"It was simply amazing to see the youth and first-time NDP voters who were newly inspired by Jack's positive message," said Clifford. "It gives me hope that we can wrestle politics away from pessimism and fight for a Canada that protects everyone."



OFL Recruits New Digital SLR Camera

Labour activists at the Vancouver CLC Convention or any labour action in the past few weeks will no doubt recognize one of the newest additions to the OFL team. The CANON 7D EOS Digital SLR Camera was recruited to the OFL's communications team to bring to life the work of the labour movement and document today's labour activism for upcoming generations. Accompanied by two incredible SIGMA lenses, 17-50mm 1:2:8 EX HSM and 70-200 1:2:8 APO DG HSM, the Federation finally has sufficient photographic muscle to shoot vivid stills and high-definition video.

"The OFL needs to move into the high-tech age and I think I'm right the equipment for the job," said the CANON 7D. "After all, management has been filming workers for far too long. It is about time we turned the tables back on them."

Look for the CANON 7D on picket lines in the future and track its work on the OFL Facebook and Flickr sites.



Edgar Godoy has been the President of CUPE Local 2191 for five years, as well as a WSIB and health and safety educator. He also has an international profile as the Canadian Co-Chair of the Latin American Trade Unionists Coalition (LATUC).



Nancy Clark comes to the OFL out of CAW Local 555 at McMaster University, where she has five years experience as a Workplace Health and Safety Coordinator and 15 years in an Occupational & Environmental Health Laboratory.

OFL's New Injured Worker Integration Program Backed by a New Team

Frustrated by the Harris-Era restructuring of injured worker reintegration programs that left many without proper advocacy or support, OFL President Sid Ryan successfully lobbied the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) for a radical new approach and more funding for the OFL's Occupational Disability Response Team (ODRT).

"The Early and Safe Return to Work program was simply not working for injured workers. It was focused on returning injured workers to their pre-injury jobs, with little regard for properly accommodating injured workers and matching jobs to their abilities," said OFL President Sid Ryan. "We needed government and employers to take a new

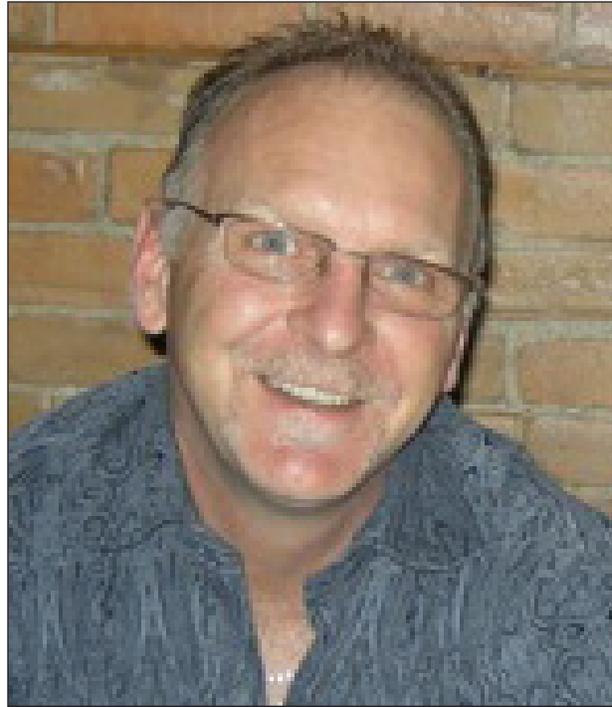
approach and we convinced them that they couldn't do it without the help of the labour movement."

The strategy worked. WSIB agreed to abandon the labour market reentry program and launched the new "Work Reintegration Services" that included an important new role for the OFL. Under the program, the ODRT will receive new special project funding, in addition to the program funding it has received for the past 20 years.

"Good policies and good processes lead to good practices," said ODRT Director of Operations and Communications Clarence MacPherson. "Our new funding will allow us to challenge employer thinking that sees injured workers as liabilities. We are going



Jody McNair Jones has been an ODRT Instructor for over 15 years. She also brings over 20 years of experience as a Workers' Compensation Representative with the Bakery, Confectionary, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers Local 154-G.



Murray McGrath hails out of the Professional Fire Fighters Association, IAFF Local 529, in Sault Ste. Marie where he has been an active ODRT Instructor for five years. He headed up his local's WSIB Committee for ten years.

to push for disability prevention and strategies to fully accommodate injured workers. The OFL has really helped to push the WSIB in a new direction.”

The new funding has allowed the OFL to hire four new staff members to head up this new initiative through regional fieldwork. Stationed in the four corners of the province, the new ODRT team will act as front-line liaisons with injured workers, helping to assess their abilities, match their employment and advocate for accommodation.

Joining the OFL's ODRT team this month are:

- Edgar Godoy:** Director, Promotion, Supply and Services, Central ON
- Nancy Clark:** Regional Services Coordinator, South Central ON
- Jody Jones:** Regional Services Coordinator, South West ON
- Murray McGrath:** Regional Services Coordinator, North East ON

OFL Labour Honour Roll

Every year, the OFL awards two \$2,000 scholarships for high-school studies in the name of retired or deceased trade unionists who have made significant contributions to the life and growth of the labour movement in Ontario.

The three OFL Officers selected the following honourees for 2011:

- Julius Deutch** Toronto and York Region Labour Council (posthumously)
- Laura Moore** CUPE Local 2286
- Clementine Ng** UNITE HERE Local 75
- Orville Thacker** Waterloo Regional Labour Council
- Rob West** SEIU (posthumously)

The scholarship recipients will be announced on July 5, 2011.

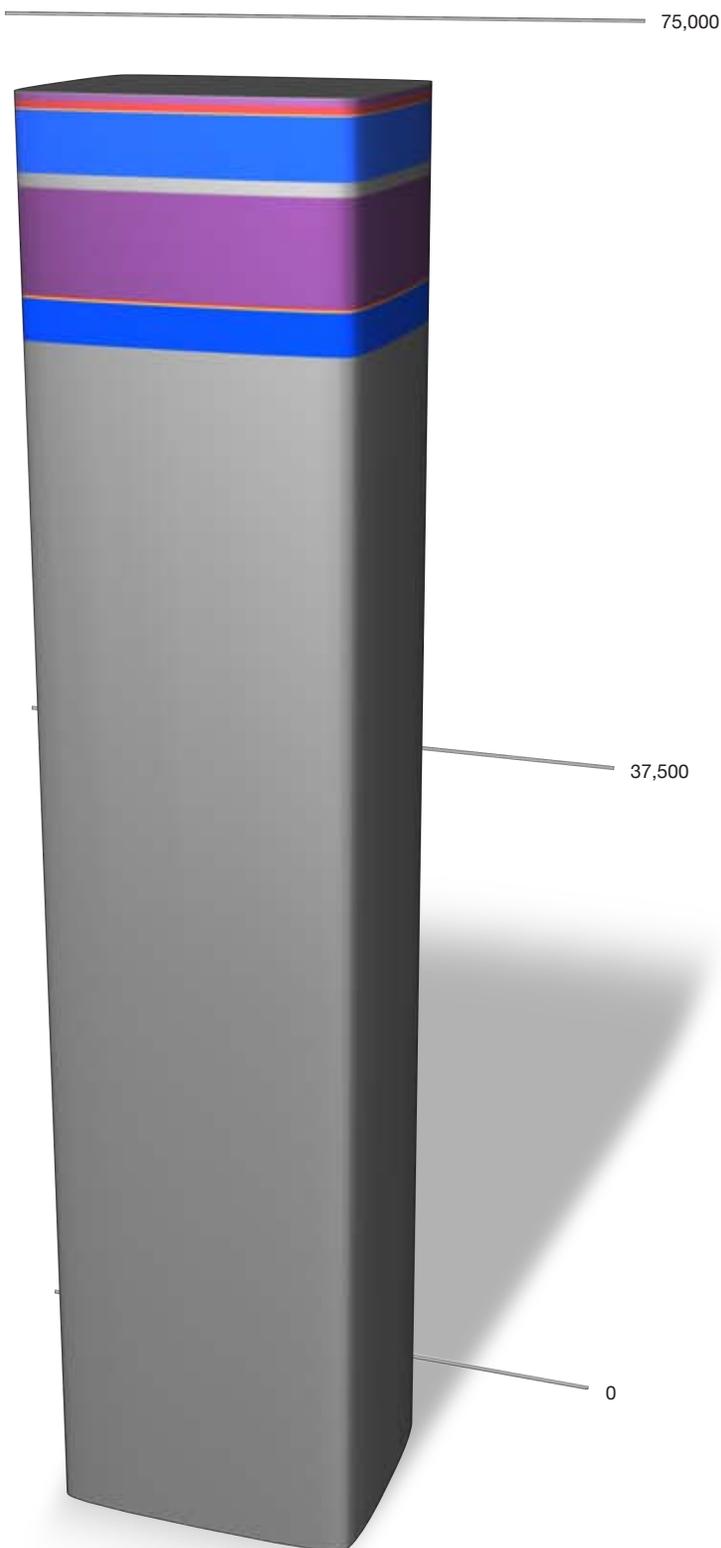
OFL GROWS BY
72,443
THIS FISCAL YEAR

PART 3: AFFILIATIONS

OFL Membership Leaps By Over 70,000!

In the last two months, the OFL membership has leapt by another 10,922 members. The total membership growth during this fiscal year has now reached a whopping 72,443. As of the date of printing, new affiliations from CAW locals have contributed 55,191 new members to the OFL, securing its position as the the largest private sector union in the Federation.

Welcome to our newest members from CAW Locals 199, 876, 1136, 1285, 1643, 1859, 2002, 4176, and 4451, as well as CUPE Local 3913 and PSAC Local 501.





Over 2,000 labour activists pack the Vancouver Convention Centre



CLC Officers Hassan Yussuff & Ken Georgetti celebrate Jack Layton's electoral gains



Panel discussion puts online activism at the forefront of labour's new tactics

PART 4: AFFILIATE & LABOUR MOVEMENT SOLIDARITY

CLC Convention Gives Boost to Good Jobs Campaign

At the recent 26th Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) convention in Vancouver, over 2,000 delegates from unions, labour councils and federations of labour came together to discuss the challenges facing working Canadians. The OFL's three officers attended the convention with Directors Duncan MacDonald and Joel Duff. The convention was a balance between issues-based discussion, focused around policy papers and resolutions, and internal restructuring that dealt with the role, goals and focus of the labour movement, its governance, campaigns and inter-union relations.

The convention policy papers gave focus to much of the debate. The "Good Jobs for All" paper addressed the challenges of the post-recession era

and the need to present labour-market alternatives that promote unionization, democratic economic control, environmental sustainability, fair taxes and investment in workforce education and skills. The paper "Building on Our Successes – Mobilizing for Our Future" promoted discussion on how to engage union members in political organizing and outreach to allies in the community and in the NDP. The discussion paper, "Recapturing our Space," focused on the need for organized labour to disseminate positive messages to Canadians by harnessing the powers of social media and developing a quick-response, grassroots communications program to assist local activists.



The Report of the Commission on Structural Review called for the creation of a Canadian Council to increase the representation of affiliated unions, provincial federations and equity groups. The Council will meet at least twice a year and a modified Executive Committee will meet up to four times.

The resolutions by the OFL were among the 170 submitted and were incorporated into several of the composite resolutions that were presented to plenary floor. The OFL's three officers spoke to the various motions from the floor.

High-profile panelists and guest speakers addressed issues ranging from the "Post-War Social Contract" to the "Silent Majority" and creative uses of new media. However, a mid-convention visit from a recently victorious Jack Layton and his fellow NDP MPs from British Columbia was the highlight of the convention.

Delegates also heard from workers involved in labour disputes across the country.

At the convention, the CLC staged its first "text mob" in support of workers' rights in Mexico and Colombia. Delegates were asked to turn on their cell phones and smart phones and send a message to these countries' embassies in Ottawa. Their telephone systems were overwhelmed by the volume of calls from the convention floor.

All four of the full-time CLC officers were acclaimed for another three-year term, including President Ken Georgetti, Secretary-Treasurer Hassan Yussuff, and Executive Vice-Presidents Barbara Byers and Marie Clarke Walker. The next CLC Convention will take place in Montréal in 2014.

Toronto Fight Continues Against Privatizing Garbage Collection

On May 17, Toronto Mayor Rob Ford suffered a setback when his plan to privatize garbage collection in the west-end of Toronto was overhauled to include a myriad of restrictions and qualifications to ensure that his proposed privatization plan would

be open, transparent and maintain the quality and environmental benefits currently enjoyed by residents of Toronto.

Although the motion to privatize passed, no contract can be approved without coming back to the council with guaranteed savings. This is significant, since an independent auditor hired by CUPE 416—Al Rosen and Associates, Litigation and Investigative Accountants—found that the costing of the Ford proposal was likely based on unrealistic savings projections.

Less than two weeks before the expected vote at City Council it was revealed that Geoff Rathbone, the City's general manager of solid waste and undoubtedly a contributor to the data presented in Ford's plan, recently accepted a job with a private, for-profit waste disposal company—one that is widely expected to bid on the City's contract.

Other jurisdictions like Ottawa and Sherbrooke in Québec have recently decided to contract-in garbage collection as part of a strategy to reduce costs and improve services. In Sherbrooke, the public provision of garbage collection is expected to save three-quarters of a million dollars annually while in Ottawa, it is expected to save \$5 million over four years.

CUPE 416 members have been knocking on doors in Toronto to build community support for public services like garbage collection and recycling. Hundreds of letters, emails and phone calls have been made to city councillors across the city. On May 17, community members, city workers and other trade unionists packed the gallery in support of public services. As a result of this pressure, Councillors opposing Ford's plans were able to convince a majority of Councillors to support amendments that would slow down Rob Ford's plan and ensure transparency in the process. This was not the outcome Ford was expecting. It is a setback for Rob Ford and a boost for those fighting for high quality public services and good jobs. The fight against privatizing garbage and recycling in Toronto is far from over – much to Ford's chagrin.



CAW President Ken Lewenza calls for labour unity and solidarity from the convention floor



"Thumbs-up from OPSEU," says President Warren "Smokey" Thomas



Locked-out UFCW members get support at CLC



CLC Ontario Regional Director Chris MacDonald and Executive Director Michael MacIsaac



CUPW 548 President Mark Platt gets support



Sid Ryan & Hamilton & District Labour Council President Mary Long joined by union activists



Hamilton CUPW members strike for 48-hours



Hamilton shows solidarity with CUPW

Posties Rotate Strikes

Intransigence of Canada Post Corporation (CPC) forced the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) into strike action at 11:59 pm on June 2. In an attempt to minimize disruption to the general public and maximize pressure on Canada Post Corporation, CUPW announced a strategy of rotating 48-hour strikes, where job action takes place in different locations at different times while services continue elsewhere. CUPW has also announced that pension and other social assistance cheques will be delivered by union volunteers to ensure they are delivered to those who rely upon this income.

Winnipeg postal workers were the first to walk off the job, where CPC first imposed its vision of the “modern post office.” According to the union, the new technology has resulted in a dramatic increase in the number of injuries sustained by postal workers. Postal workers walked off the job next in Hamilton and were joined in solidarity by OFL President Sid Ryan and other trade unionists, including locked-out members of USW 1005. As we go to press, postal workers in Montréal are walking the picket lines.

CUPW has been bargaining with Canada Post Corporation for seven months, and in addition to fighting for the health and safety of its members, are facing down a battery of vicious concessions tabled by the employer. This comes at a time when Canada Post has turned a profit for 16 consecutive years.

According to CUPW president Denis Lemelin, “The Corporation wants to pay new employees nearly 25 percent less. It wants to reduce their benefits, weaken their job security and provide an inferior pension. It also wants to attack retiree benefits, sick leave and turn back the clock on many other contract provisions.”

OFL President Sid Ryan wrote a letter in support of CUPW. “But we need more than letters,” said Ryan. “Every worker in this province has a stake in the outcome of this fight and we must do everything we can to ensure postal workers win.”

For more information: www.cupw.ca

USW 1-500 Workers Win Severance Settlement Offer from ECP

The United Steelworkers (USW) reached an 11th hour deal on severance for the 86 workers of Local 1-500 who had been on strike for 1015 days (nearly three years).

These courageous Brantford steelworkers stood 100 percent in solidarity through one of the longest running strikes in Ontario history. Their employer, Engineering Coated Products (ECP) and parent company Intertape Polymer, earned the dubious distinction as “Canada’s Worst Employer” for demanding a 25 percent cut in wages, busing scabs across the picket line and laying criminal charges against lawful protestors.

In April, the workers learned that the company would be closing in June, with no provisions for severance. The OFL has supported 1-500 members throughout the past year and helped to keep pressure on the employer. Hours before the Steelworkers were set to protest the Intertape Polymer annual shareholders’ meeting at the Royal York Hotel in Toronto on June 3, the company relented and the union achieved a settlement offer for severance.

The deal will be put to the membership for ratification.

USW 1-1000 Solidarity Rally in Pembroke

On May 25, OFL Secretary-Treasurer Marie Kelly joined the Renfrew and District Labour Council in supporting the striking members of USW 1-1000 workers in Pembroke as they marked the one-year anniversary of their strike.

Many of these brave workers have over 30 years of service at Commonwealth Plywood, without any benefits, and the workers were offered a \$3 pay cut from \$14.75 to \$11.75.

“These workers and this community have supported this company for decades and now the company has shamefully abandoned them at the worst time,” said Kelly. “What has been proposed are poverty wages.”



Local labour council stands in solidarity with striking members of USW 1-1000



Walking the line with USW 1-1000



Sister Kelly brings solidarity from the OFL



LEAF award recipients toast other women who are trailblazing in non-traditional jobs
 INSET: OFL Officers Terry Downey and Marie Kelly join in recognizing women workers

PART 5: COMMUNITY & INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

LEAF Awards Reception

The OFL has been a long-time supporter of the Women’s Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF). In May, the Federation helped to support the LEAF annual awards reception, which marked the 25th anniversary of Equity Day, under the banner “A Celebration of Women in Non-traditional Jobs.”

The reception was hosted by LEAF Executive Director Sheryl Hoshizaki and the awards were presented by OFL Secretary-Treasurer Marie Kelly. The following sisters were honoured at the event: Courtney Chard (UA Local 46), Lynn Descary (USW), Doris Duck (IAMAW Local 905), Coral Forster (CEP Local 27), Bozena Mathlin (CUPE Local 416), Amanda Schiemann (OSSTF), Terry Weymouth (CAW), Brandy Wrolstad (OPSEU).

Canadians for Tax Fairness

In April, a new tax fairness advocacy organization called Canadians for Tax Fairness was established with the mission: “...to build a citizen-based, citizen-driven campaign organization to promote fair taxation, based on ability to pay, to fund the comprehensive, high-quality network of public services and programs required to meet our collective social, economic and environmental needs in the 21st century.”

Their first initiative is a petition and campaign to stop additional corporate tax cuts at the federal and provincial levels. Information on the petition and campaign is available on their website at www.taxfairness.ca

The Canadians for Tax Fairness campaign will provide more thoughtful insight for public discussion on the role of taxes in a modern society and counter the musings of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation. The Taxpayers Federation is a front for the conservative business lobby and uses the cover of a citizen's advocacy group to advance the Harper/Hudak agenda. A number of their leaders including Jason Kenney have run as Conservative Party candidates. One of their Ontario leaders, Kevin Gaudet, is the Ontario Progressive Conservative Party candidate in a Toronto area riding.

Campaign to Save our Jails

The Ontario Budget tabled on March 29 announced the McGuinty government's intention to shut down correctional facilities in Walkerton, Owen Sound and Sarnia.

Within days of the Ontario Budget, the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) launched a campaign to save provincial jails in Owen Sound and Walkerton. By the end of May, over 12,000 signatures had been collected on petitions that were tabled almost daily in the Ontario Legislature.

OPSEU and local community groups are calling on Premier Dalton McGuinty and the Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services Jim Bradley, to stop the closures pending a full public review of the decision and to begin consultations with local stakeholder groups adversely affected by the shut down.

OFL President Sid Ryan joined the campaign, sending a letter supporting OPSEU's demands and amplifying community concerns about the impact of these closures.

"The closure of these jails will have a negative impact on at least 100 families of workers at these facilities," said OFL President Sid Ryan. "Many of these families will have to relocate, causing great upheaval for the children who will have to move to new schools. Families moving away will decrease the tax base in the area and services will suffer. In

some cases I am hearing of families that will be separated because one spouse will have to move, leaving the family behind, in order for both spouses to remain employed."

The McGuinty government claims that the jails in question are underutilized and over budget. But workers at the facilities report that, in fact, these jails are at times over crowded, and in the case of Owen Sound, under budget.

Opposition to the move comes from all quarters, including local mayors, health professionals, police, lawyers, correctional system workers and wardens.

For more information see: www.opseu.org/ops/campaigns/save_the_jails/index.htm

G20 Redux: Fundamental Freedoms Festival

The OFL is working in coalition with the Canadian Civil Liberties Association (CCLA), Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) and the Council of Canadians to mark the one year anniversary of the G20 summit in Toronto by hosting a large fundamental freedoms festival at Queen's Park on Saturday June 25, 2011. The organizers are calling upon like-minded organizations and individuals to join them for G20:REDUX on June 25 to show their collective determination to uphold and protect democratic rights.

"For one week last summer, the City of Toronto was turned into a police state, over a thousand people were arrested and the rights of thousands more were threatened. Every level of decision-making needs to be scrutinized to determine how this was allowed to happen and determine who was calling the shots," said OFL President Sid Ryan.

Affiliates are invited to support the event by making financial donations and mobilizing their members in order to keep the pressure on for a full public inquiry into the attack on civil liberties.

Campaign to Stop Wage Theft

The Workers Action Centre – an organization that helps engage non-union workers to defend their workplace rights – launched the Stop Wage Theft campaign highlighting widespread violations of employment standards on the part of employers. Hard working people—especially those without the benefit of union representation—are too often victims of wage theft on the part of employers who are not honouring all aspects of labour law in the workplace.

The campaign calls on the Ministry of Labour to embark on a much more comprehensive and proactive campaign to enforce basic employment standards in the areas of wages, overtime pay, vacation, sick leave, and classification of employees. The campaign demands that immediate steps be taken to protect workers who come forward to enforce their rights, and to fast track reinstatement and compensation for workers wrongly or constructively dismissed for speaking out against employers who deny workers their wages or rights at work.

The Workers Action Centre is calling on the Ministry of Labour to target those employers in sectors and industries in which there are concentrations of unorganized young workers, recent immigrants, women, racialized workers and to target employers who have had previous complaints lodged against them. However, to make enforcement meaningful, the Centre notes that penalties must be strong enough to create a real deterrent. Currently, the penalties for employment standards violations are often so minimal they constitute a financial incentive for employers to violate the law.

OFL President Sid Ryan wrote a letter to Labour Minister Charles Sousa, supporting the Workers Action Centre recommendations and urging the government to take immediate steps to implement them. For more information on the Stop Wage Theft campaign, please visit: www.workersactioncentre.org/campaigns_stopwagetheft.html



Workers Action Centre representatives speak out at CUPE Ontario anti-poverty rally

Literacy Award Nomination

The workplace-based literacy project of the Ontario Literacy Coalition's Provincial Advisory Committee (PAC) has been nominated for the 2011 Council of the Federation's Literacy Award for Innovation. The nomination was submitted by ABC Life Literacy Canada. The Project—Collaborative Development Approaches: Piloting Illustrative Workplace Models (CODA)—helped deliver workplace-based training to over 350 learners in 16 workplaces across Ontario.

The Council of the Federation is comprised of provincial premiers from Canada's provinces and territories. Each year, the Council presents a literacy medallion to each province and territory in recognition of "outstanding achievement, innovative practice and excellence in literacy".

The CODA project for workplace-based literacy is guided by a Provincial Advisory Committee of literacy, employer and trade unions. The Ontario Federation of Labour, along with the CAW and CUPE, has been an active member of the PAC and the resulting CODA project.

Funded by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, the CODA project demonstrated the mutual benefits to employers and workers in addressing workplace issues while also enhancing a variety of literacy needs, including language, computer and other basic skills. The curriculum in each worksite was based on the local needs of the employers and workers involved. The provincial partnership was a key element in promoting and successfully implementing local workplace-based learning projects throughout Ontario.



PART 6: ONLINE AND SOCIAL MEDIA PROFILE

Promoting Labour Online

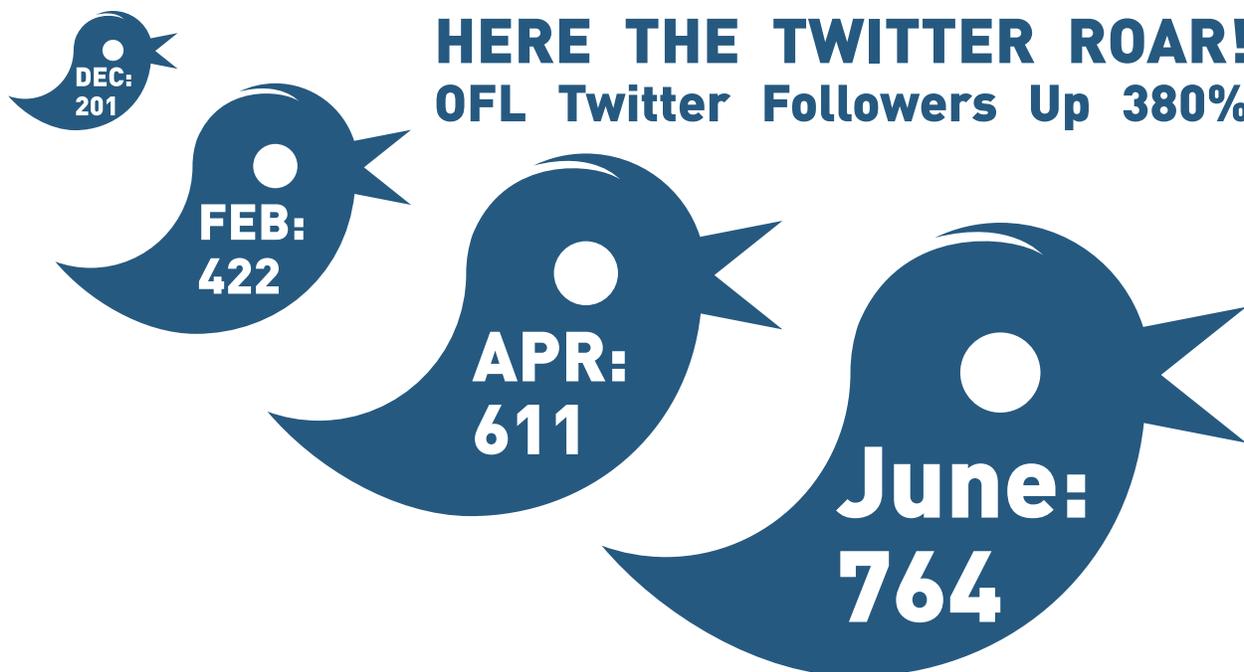
Since the beginning of the year, the OFL has begun to redefine its online profile through more regular updates to the website and an integration of social media tools. The OFL website features icons linking to its Facebook, Twitter and Flickr accounts. Until a more interactive website can be developed, this integration will enable trade unionists, community members, media and government representatives to more easily follow the Federation's work and activity. The OFL is currently in the process of developing an entirely new and interactive website design, with the goal of launching a new site in September 2011.

Facebook: Building an Online Labour Community

The OFL's Facebook profile has continued to grow daily since the beginning of the New Year. The Federation's Facebook profile and Fan Page are used as an organizing tool to spread messages quickly and to build an online network of labour and community activists. The OFL's Facebook "friends" have increased by 35 percent in the past two months and by 200 percent in the past five. The dramatic increase from 600 to 1761 (at press time) is a product of the high degree of activity on the OFL Facebook account and shows no signs of trailing off.

"Friend" the OFL on Facebook at: www.Facebook.com/OntarioLabour

Promote the OFL Fan Page at: www.Facebook.com/OntarioFedLabour



YouTube: Online Labour Television

After launching a new OFL YouTube channel in mid-spring, the Federation has begun uploading short video clips of events and sharing them with online followers.

These videos help to promote the work of the labour movement and have been receiving significant attention from the membership and the community.

Watch the OFL videos:

www.YouTube.com/OFLCommunications

Twitter: Spreading the Word

The OFL has entrenched itself as a go-to online news source primarily through the soundbite format of Twitter. Frequent posts and commentary from OntarioLabour have expanded our followers by 382 percent at press time.

Follow the OFL at

www.Twitter.com/OntarioLabour

Flickr: Sharing Labour Photos

The Federation continues to document its work extensively through photos that are posted within 24 hours to the OFL's open access photo sharing site. Affiliates and coalition partners are invited to use these photos as a resource in their local and community outreach materials.

The OFL's photos can be found at:

www.Flickr.com/OntarioFedLabour

The OFL Daily: Labour News Digest

The OFL's daily online newspaper is published every afternoon and delivered to hundreds via Facebook and Twitter. A compendium of stories pulled from affiliate Twitter accounts, this publication gives profile to the work of affiliates, as well as the OFL.

Read the OFL Daily at: paper.li/OntarioLabour



OFL President Sid Ryan delivers message of solidarity with striking CUPW workers

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 radio and television media outlets:

- 680 News
- Broadcast News
- Canadian Press
- CBC Radio Two
- CBET TV Windsor
- CBL-FM Toronto
- CFTO-TV Toronto
- CHML-AM Hamilton
- CHMT-FM Timmins
- CHOD-FM Cornwall
- City TV Toronto
- CJBC-AM Toronto
- CJBQ-AM Bellville
- CJCS-AM Stratford
- CJFO-FM Ottawa
- CKAP-FM Kapuskasing
- CKCO-TV Kitchener
- CP24 TV Toronto
- CTS TV Burlington
- Global TV
- Moose FM 94.1 Elliott Lake
- Newstalk 1010 CFRB-AM
- Radio Canada
- RDI TV
- TFO TV

A clippings compendium of print media coverage is appended to this report.



PART 8: UPCOMING EVENTS

Month of June: Pride Events

Pride events begin in June and take place across Ontario throughout the summer. Check the OFL website for event listings for your community: www.OFL.ca

June 17-19: OFL Aboriginal Circle 2nd Gathering

The OFL's Aboriginal Circle 2nd Gathering, "Walking in our Moccasins," will be held at the CAW Family Education Centre in Port Elgin from June 17 to 19, 2011. See the OFL website for registration materials, or contact OFL Human Rights Director Janice Gairey: 416-443-7655 or jgairey@ofl.ca

June 17-19: Federal NDP Convention

The next Biennial Convention of the New Democratic Party of Canada will be held June 17, 18 and 19 at the Vancouver Convention Centre. The Convention will mark the Party's 50th anniversary. For more information, visit: www.ndp.ca

June 25: G20 Redux Rally

Join the OFL and civil society groups in marking the one-year anniversary of Canada's largest mass arrest and calling for a full public inquiry by joining the rally at June 25 at 2:00 pm at Queen's Park in Toronto. For more information, contact: G20Redux@gmail.com

Sept. 5: Labour Day

Celebrate Labour Day on Monday, September 5 by participating in events planned in your community.

Sept. 15: Pay Equity “101” Bargaining Workshops

The OFL will be hosting Pay Equity “101” Bargaining Workshops on September 15 at the OFL Building. For more information, contact Carrol Anne Sceviour: 416-443-7670 or 1-800-668-9138 x670 or csceviour@ofl.ca

Sept. 13: Rally for Health Care

The Ontario Health Coalition will be hosting a rally for health care at Queen’s Park on Tuesday, September 13 at noon. The rally will be followed by a march through downtown Toronto to Nathan Phillips Square, Toronto City Hall.

For more information, visit: www.ontariohealthcoalition.ca or contact (416) 441-2502 or ohc@sympatico.ca

Sept. 28: Workshop on Ontario Human Rights Tribunal

The Ontario Federation of Labour is sponsoring a Tribunal. Come and learn from the experiences of labour and community activists on how the Tribunal functions and the impact on all of your members. The event will be hosted at the OFL Building on September 28. For more information, contact Duncan Mac Donald: 416-443-7668 or 1-800-668-9138 x668 or dmacdonald@ofl.ca

Oct. 6: Ontario Election

Under amendments passed by the Legislature in 2004, Ontario elections are now held on fixed dates: the first Thursday of October every four years.

The 40th Ontario general election will occur on October 6, 2011. For information on registering and voting, visit: <http://www.elections.on.ca>

Nov. 20-25: OFL Convention

The 11th Biennial Convention of the OFL will be held at the Sheraton Centre Hotel in Toronto from November 20-25, 2011. Stay tuned to the OFL website for details.

PART 9: PHOTO CREDITS

All photos in this publication were taken by Joel Duff except the following.

Page 4 photos by Laurie Hardwick

Page 7 photo uncredited

Page 8 photos by Cameron MacMaster

Page 9 photo by Heather Porter

Page 12 photo on top left by John MacLennan; other three uncredited.

Page 13 photos uncredited

Page 14 photo on right uncredited

Page 15 photos uncredited

Page 17 photos by John MacLennan

Page 21 photos by Renfrew & District Labour Council

Pages 30-31 photos by Preethy Sivakumar



CLC Executive Vice-President Marie Clarke Walker joins Janice and the Gairey clan

PART 10: IN RECOGNITION

Janice Gairey Recognized with Bromley Armstrong Award

The OFL is proud to announce that Human Rights Director Janice Gairey is this year's recipient of the prestigious Bromley Armstrong Award of the Toronto and York Region Labour Council. Established in 2004, in honour of courageous labour activist, Bromley L. Armstrong, the award recognizes the dedication, commitment and leadership of a labour activist who has a demonstrated history of fighting for equity, labour and human rights.

"I am honoured to have Janice Gairey receive an award that carries my name," said an enthusiastic Armstrong, who joined Janice at the podium. "I have known Janice for years and witnessed her commitment to bringing the community and labour movements together to fight for human rights."

Recognized as an activist and a mentor to other activists, especially in racialized communities, Gairey has over thirty years experience in fighting for social justice. In addition to her work in the OFL, Gairey has gained an international reputation through her work as President of the Ontario Chapter of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU).

"Janice has been a role model for labour and community activists, but she has also instilled the same passion for justice and equity in her children and grandchildren," said Ceceil Beckford, Co-Chair of the Labour Council's Equity Committee and the presenter of the award. "There is no doubt that her work will be carried on through the many people she has inspired."

Gairey was joined at the award ceremony by many members of the community, as well as her proud family.



Bromley Armstrong recognizes OFL Human Rights Director Janice Gairey



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