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P.7 CLC DEFENDS UNION IMAGE



P.18 THE CONSCIENCE OF QUEEN'S PARK

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

## ONTARIO FEDERATION OF LABOUR

SPRING 2013



VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2

# FIGHTING AUSTERITY





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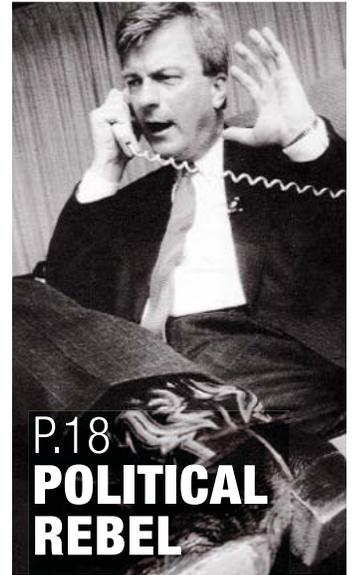
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Sid Ryan and fellow Bampton consultation panelists, Irwin Nanda and Simon Black receive public deputations from community and labour groups

THREE PHOTOS: JOEL DUFF

# DRAFTING A PEOPLE'S BUDGET

## OFL PLAN FOR A FAIR ECONOMY CHALLENGES FAILED AUSTERITY MYTHS

Only days after Ontario's new Premier, Kathleen Wynne presented her first throne speech in the legislature, the OFL released a discussion paper, called *Toward a People's Budget*, and launched an unprecedented, province-wide community consultation to solicit recommendations for the next provincial budget.

Frustrated by deep cuts to jobs and services that have had a devastating impact on communities across the province, the OFL called for a change in the conversation on austerity and an Ontario Budget that focuses on economic growth and help for struggling families.

The People's Budget campaign visited nine cities across the province over the span of a month and invited Ontarians to share their ideas for a new approach to addressing our economic, social, and fiscal challenges.

"There is no doubt that Ontarians are struggling with job loss and austerity cuts to services in their communities. They want to see Ontario choose a new path that focuses on good jobs, sustainable public services and

a fairer society," said OFL President Sid Ryan. "With a government that had ignored the public interest, we decided to provide an opportunity for Ontarians to bring their ideas forward and demand a budget that puts people first."

The OFL's green paper challenged several myths, including:

- The government can no longer afford to deliver the same level of services to Ontarians;
- Cutting the deficit will grow the economy;
- The experts are never wrong; and
- Everyone is being asked to do their share to reduce the deficit.

In reality, as the paper points out, Ontario provides less funding for public programs and services than any other province in Canada; our poverty rates are rising faster than almost every other province; the government has foregone \$15 billion in tax revenues that have benefited wealthy Ontarians and corporations the most with little evidence such largesse has delivered on their promise of growth and jobs; and deep

cuts in the 2012 Budget have made life more difficult for many hard-working Ontarians, including those most in need. The evidence makes clear that austerity budgets only worsen social conditions while seriously undermining the economy, contributing to the very deficit problem the agenda purports to resolve.

The OFL was not alone in questioning the wisdom of austerity agendas being pursued with much vigour by governments across the western world. Recently, the International Monetary Fund issued an unprecedented *mea culpa*, admitting that the negative impact of austerity on economic growth is much greater than what had been anticipated.

The OFL's paper considered the social and economic possibilities that arise once governments move beyond austerity, including specific ideas to spur growth and job creation, address income inequality, preserve public services, and restore fair taxation for banks and corporations.

Community groups and residents from every corner of the province were invited to attend the



Mississauga student activist Grace Guo calls for real tuition fee reduction



Sonia Singh from the Workers' Action Centre tells Toronto consultation that the working poor need a raise in order to keep one step ahead of poverty

public consultations to present their ideas for a new approach to addressing the province's economic, social, and fiscal challenges. However, public input was also solicited through an online submission portal hosted on the OFL's slick campaign web page at: [www.ThePeoplesBudget.ca](http://www.ThePeoplesBudget.ca)

All three OFL officers traveled the province to attend the various consultations and receive the deputations as part of regional panels that included local labour and community representatives. In total, the consultations drew over 500 attendees, over 100 presentations were made and scores of other submissions were received from individuals and organizations representing such diverse groups as seniors, students, women, Aboriginal people, people with disabilities and injured workers, as well as anti-poverty, labour, environmental and newcomer groups.

Throughout the consultations, Ontarians brought forward an impressive array of ideas, shared stories on the impact of the austerity agenda, and proposed thoughtful recommendations for moving forward in a new direction. The main themes that emerged throughout the process can be generally grouped into five priority areas:

- Creating good jobs;
  - Fair taxation;
  - Alleviating poverty;
  - Supporting workers and their families; and
  - Giving young people a fair chance.
- The OFL will be submitting a final "white paper" of budgetary recommendations in mid-April that puts forward specific proposals to address these themes. These recommendations will include, among other things:
- Establishing an infrastructure fund to be used for transit, housing and green initiatives;
  - Raising taxes for high income earners, restoring corporate tax rates and closing tax loopholes;
  - Improving social assistance rates and restoring funding for the community start-up program;
  - Increasing the minimum wage to lift low-wage earners 10 percent above the poverty line, with an annual adjustment for cost of living; and
  - Enhancing the school funding formula, creating a youth job strategy and reducing of post-secondary tuition fees.
- Like the *We Are Ontario* campaign last year, the People's Budget process has the potential

to influence Ontario's budget priorities. The white paper will call on the province to pursue a bold new strategy that pro-actively supports key sectors in the Ontario economy and fosters innovation, investment in sustainable products and practices, and creates good jobs.

The measures highlighted in the white paper will reflect the interests of Ontarians and present a blue-print for putting Ontario back on an economic and fiscal path that ensures the economic prosperity for everyone.

PEOPLE'S BUDGET  
CONSULTATIONS  
WERE HELD IN 9 CITIES

<b>Feb 25:</b>	<b>Brampton</b>
<b>Feb 26:</b>	<b>Ottawa</b>
<b>Mar 6:</b>	<b>Sudbury</b>
<b>Mar 7:</b>	<b>Thunder Bay</b>
<b>Mar 11:</b>	<b>Kitchener-Waterloo</b>
<b>Mar 19:</b>	<b>London</b>
<b>Mar 20:</b>	<b>Toronto</b>
<b>Mar 26:</b>	<b>Hamilton</b>
<b>Mar 28:</b>	<b>Windsor</b>



PHOTO: JOEL DUFF

OFL Executive Vice-President Irwin Nanda presents a pre-budget submission to government with Researcher Brynne Sinclair-Waters

## OFL PRESSES GOVERNMENT TO BROADEN BUDGET TALKS

The OFL welcomed the constructive message in Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne's first throne speech in February, which committed to a new relationship with the province's workers based on fairness and respect. Wynne acknowledged that austerity alone won't be enough to address inequality and build a fair society. However, words are not enough; Ontario workers are expecting action. The true test to Wynne's commitment will be the Ontario Budget, expected later this month.

The NDP has set out its budget demands, which include closing corporate tax loopholes, job creation, on-the-job training for youth, a five-day home care guarantee for seniors and a 15 percent cut in auto insurance rates. On March 27, the Liberals agreed to support an NDP motion to reduce auto insurance premiums and therein provided a strong signal that the Liberals are willing to meet the NDP's demands in order to avoid a spring election.

The OFL submitted its own recommendations for the next budget during the shotgun Pre-Budget Consultations held in Toronto on March 21 and 22. The Federation's submission highlighted some of the key issues that were represented during the People's Budget consultations, including: increasing the minimum wage, investing in infrastructure, supporting

young Ontarians, and imposing fair taxes on corporations. However, one of the OFL's central recommendations was a procedural one: extending the consultation process to allow more citizen input. We are pleased to report that the government responded by adding a day of hearings in Northwestern Ontario and extending the deadline for submissions. We believe that meaningful engagement with Ontarians will help to facilitate public policy that reflects the public interest.

The Minister of Finance, Charles Sousa, has also announced that he will continue to travel across the province and hold telephone town halls to hear from as many communities and organizations as possible in the lead up to the budget. These meetings will continue until April 12. The OFL has a special meeting with the office of the Minister of Finance scheduled for April 17, to allow for the submission of the final recommendations of the People's Budget Campaign.

On March 19, the OFL's Officers had introductory meetings with the new Minister of Labour, Yasir Naqvi, and Premier Kathleen Wynne where they laid out some of the current priorities of workers and their families. Both meetings had a constructive and positive tone.

## SOCIAL MEDIA CORNER

### E-NEWSLETTER

Sign up for the OFL's new e-blast updates by visiting [www.OFL.ca](http://www.OFL.ca) and clicking on "Sign Up for Updates."

### TWITTER

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### ONTARIO FEDERATION OF LABOUR

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

Volume 3, Issue 2 of the **OFL President's Report** was produced for the April 9, 2013 meeting of the Executive Board of the Ontario Federation of Labour (OFL).

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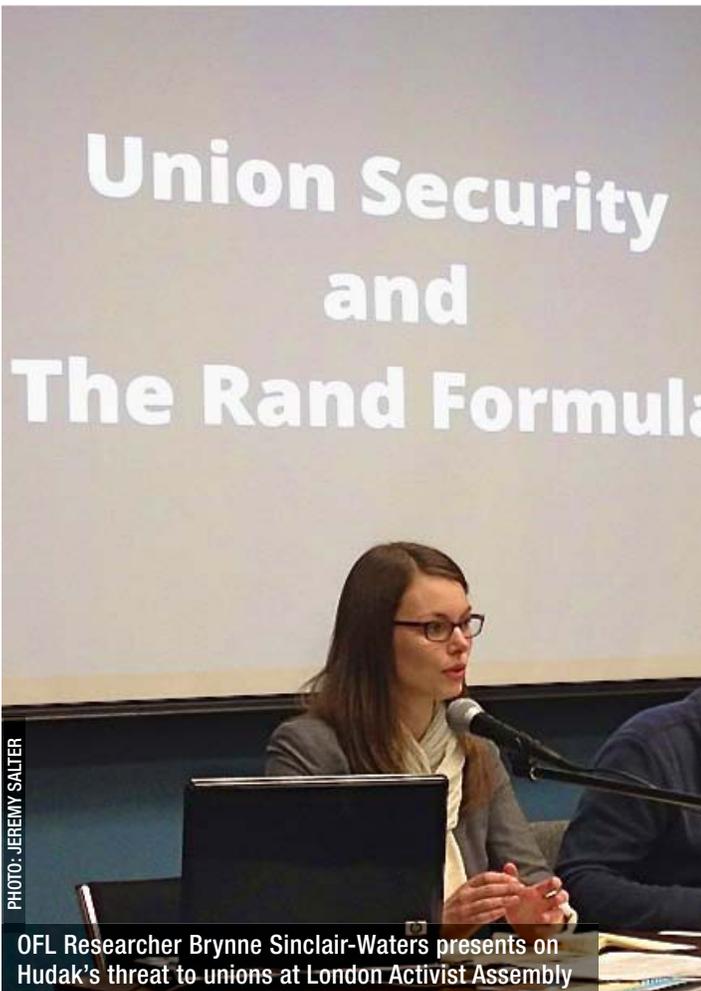


PHOTO: JEREMY SALTER

OFL Researcher Brynne Sinclair-Waters presents on Hudak's threat to unions at London Activist Assembly



PHOTO: JOEL DUFF



PHOTO: JOEL DUFF

Above: CLC President Ken Georgetti calls for united campaign  
Below: Toronto Star columnist Thomas Walkom outlines threats

## 1,500 PACK CLC CONFERENCE TO DEFEND FAIR WAGES AND WORKING CONDITIONS

From March 22 to 24, over 1,500 delegates travelled from across Canada for the largest political action conference in the history of the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC). Responding to the CLC's call to *Stand Up for Fairness*, participants shared strategies and tactics to engage with both union members and the broader community in the context of the challenges and opportunities facing the labour movement today.

This conference was a huge success thanks to the energy and voices of union activists, who, over two days shared their thoughts and ideas for ensuring fair working conditions and benefits for all workers. Participants left with a shared resolve to work together on a united campaign that will be launched by the CLC in coming months.

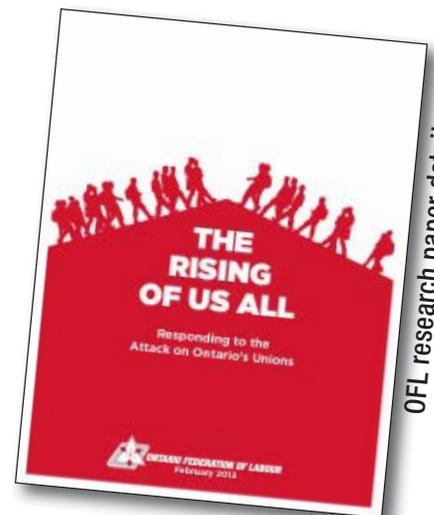
To address the coming threat to union security posed by Ontario PC Leader Tim Hudak, the OFL

produced research materials to educate union and community organizers about the vital and on-going importance of labour unions and the threat of American-style, anti-union legislation in Ontario.

The OFL's research paper called, *The Rising of Us All*, looks back at the past achievements of labour unions in Canada and identifies where these social and economic gains have come under threat in recent years.

A second research report outlines how current labour law in Ontario protects union security and discusses the impact that Hudak's plans for American-style, anti-union laws would have on the wages and working conditions of all workers if they were adopted in Ontario.

The Toronto and York Region Labour Council kicked off member-to-member education campaign on threats to union security with a hugely successful internal organizing meeting that drew over 700 union activists.



OFL research paper details union gains for all workers

The OFL will be collaborating with the CLC and is encouraging all affiliates to put the full weight of their support behind the CLC campaign when it is launched.



Community activists launch campaign to thaw Ontario's minimum wage freeze

## ONTARIO COMMON FRONT PARTNERS MOBILIZE ACTIONS AND BUILD COMMUNITY

Common Front partners have been busy with the People's Budget, launching the minimum wage campaign and the migrant labour and immigration conference. Common Front steering committee members helped to chair People's Budget consultations, as well as make oral and written presentations. The prospect of a People's Budget excited many individuals and organizations looking to build alternatives to Ontario's austerity budget. Program cuts have hit communities extremely hard, and now they're prepared to take action.

The minimum wage campaign is a concrete action that is building momentum. The campaign was launched in communities across Ontario on March 21 and calls for the "unfreezing of the minimum wage" to increase Ontario's base salary amount to \$14 per hour. It is widely recognized that this amount would lift working people just above the poverty line, but government policy must also implement automatic annual increases to prevent working people from becoming the "working poor."

On March 21, Common Front partners such as Workers' Action Centre, Freedom 90, and

ACORN rallied outside the Ministry of Labour, and blocks of ice were delivered to members of provincial parliament to symbolize the thawing of the freeze on minimum wage that has been in place since base wages reached \$10.25 per hour in March 2010. Since then, inflation has driven minimum wage earners 19 percent below the poverty line.

The Workers' Action Centre also joined with the Centre for Spanish Speaking People and the Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants, to partner with the OFL, CLC and affiliates to deliver a two-day conference on migrant labour and immigration issues. At Metro Hall in Toronto, labour and community activists examined current policies and explored solutions related to strengthening the rights of newcomers to our province's labour market.

Organizing remains at the heart of the Common Front. On March 27, the Ottawa and District Labour Council sponsored a Common Front planning meeting and the groundwork was laid for an assembly in May to establish community priorities and build a labour-community coalition that will continue this work into the future.

## WORKSHOP CALL FOR MIGRANT

On April 5 and 6, the OFL joined with several labour and community partners to host an extensive weekend workshop on migrant labour and immigration issues, called "Protecting Rights, Building Solidarity."

The workshop's 80 registrants drew together workers, advocates, experts and community allies committed to protecting and strengthening the rights of newcomers to the province's labour market. Through panelist speakers and participatory sessions, attendees examined the impact of current policies, explored solutions and developed strategies for joint action.

The session was a further development in a partnership between the OFL and the United Food and Commercial Workers to launch a project



Left side: Karl Flecker (CLC), Irwin Nanda (OFL), Fay Faraday, (York) and Edgar Godoy (OFL/UFCW)

Invited speakers included, CLC Anti-Racism and Human Rights Director Karl Flecker, UFCW Director Naveen Mehta, OCASI Executive Director Debbie Douglas and York University Professor Fay Faraday.

Panelists addressed the growing use of temporary workers in sectors ranging from farming, construction, live-in caregivers, food processing and the service industry. With a 71 percent increase in temporary foreign worker admissions over recent years, there is virtually no sector of the economy that is not affected.

However, specific concern was directed at the clear efforts of the Harper government to import temporary workers in order to drive down wages and working conditions across the board.

Over the course of the weekend, participants resolved to develop coordinated campaigns to call

# LS FOR RIGHTS IT WORKERS

designed to defend the rights of migrant and temporary foreign workers in Ontario.

OFL Executive Vice-President Irwin Nanda provided the welcoming remarks to kick off an opening evening of strong presentations that set the tone for break-out groups and deliberative discussions held the following day.

“The federal and provincial governments have created a two-tier system that exploits temporary foreign workers as a seemingly expendable, low-wage, workforce,” said Nanda. “By stripping migrant workers of their basic human rights and workplace protections, standards are being driven down for every worker. We must defend the most vulnerable workers to protect good jobs in Canada.”



Right side: Hassan Yussuf (CLC), Debbie Douglas (OCASI) and Naveen Mehta (UFCW)

for labour law reform to protect migrant workers and the creation of an independent office for migrant worker advocacy.

“The first step is to guarantee migrant workers’ rights and the second is to ensure access to them,” said Project Coordinator Edgar Godoy who coordinated the event. “Workers and their families don’t need paper rights, they need real protection and fair treatment.”

The weekend event was organized by a diverse steering committee that includes the Canadian Auto Workers, Canadian Labour Congress, Centre for Spanish Speaking Peoples, International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants, Ontario Federation of Labour, United Food and Commercial Workers, United Steelworkers and Workers’ Action Centre.

# AFRICAN CANADIAN SUMMIT LOOKS AT ROOT CAUSES OF YOUTH VIOLENCE

The OFL joined the African Canadian Coalition of Community Organizations, the African Canadian Legal Clinic, and the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (Ontario Chapter) to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination by hosting a joint summit on youth violence.

A theme heard throughout the Summit was: the time for action is now! This reflected a growing impatience at the lack of change implemented by governments at every level since the Stephen Lewis Report identified the need to address the growing crisis of youth violence over two decades ago.

Over 160 people attended the event, held in a new community centre built at the edge of Toronto’s once maligned Regent Park neighbourhood. Joining the many African Canadian community leaders were key government officials, representatives of major public institutions, labour leaders, service providers and other stakeholders. The focus of the summit was to address the issues of marginalization and social exclusion that have contributed to the current crisis among African Canadian youth, and in particular, the disproportionate level of gun violence.



Frustrated youth speak out about the lack of action in addressing the systemic social and economic causes of violence in their communities

The racialization of poverty, high school drop-out rates and over-representation in the child welfare and criminal justice systems were identified as urgent issues affecting the African-Canadian Community. These social ills necessitate an effective community-based action plan for addressing gun violence and ultimately gun control. The OFL, along with CBTU Ontario, PSAC, CUPE, ETFO, OSSTF and OECTA attendees were invited to join the Summit to reinforce Labour’s perspective on the connection between employment, economics, good jobs and healthy communities.

OFL President Sid Ryan addressed an audience that included Premier Kathleen Wynne with remarks that called for employment equity and reaffirmed labour’s commitment to supporting the community in putting the Summit recommendations into action.

The event generated much discussion and many grass roots recommendations. Politicians from every level of government presented a variety of commitments to addressing the issues identified. However, for a community that has heard its share of broken promises, only concrete actions will satisfy the call for change.



## LABOUR

# TWENTY AIRLINE FUELERS TAKE ON GOLIATH ... WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM THEIR FRIENDS

On January 10, the newly unionized employees who fuel Porter aircrafts at the Toronto Island airport were pushed on strike by an employer that is eager to block their first collective agreement and break the union.

Porter Airlines, which is expanding its operations throughout eastern North America, thwarted negotiations by putting forward a final offer in bad faith. However, over 12 weeks after the strike began, the employer continues to show no sign of getting back to the table with a fair offer of settlement.

The issues that these courageous workers are bringing to the table are centered primarily around safety and pay. The list of unsafe practices and working conditions that they have reported are deeply troubling, while their pay is much lower than comparable workers at Pearson Airport. Given the vital importance of these issues on the lives and livelihoods of young workers, the OFL called upon the labour movement to rally behind COPE Local 343 to put pressure on Porter to put forward a fair offer.

These workers are among the lowest paid in the industry. The average annual income of the striking workers is \$28,000 and, yet, Porter has refused to move on its proposal to increase hourly wages by only 25 cents for 11 of 22 workers, while the remaining workers would get no increase.

Porter also has a history of sloppy or delinquent health and safety practices. The striking workers complain about the lack of proper protective clothing and fuel resistant gloves, as well as concerns about improper chemical storage and inadequate procedures in the event of spills and fuel leaks. These workers, who service aircrafts during extremes in weather conditions, have the right to a healthy and safe workplace.

During the strike, the company has put public safety at risk by hiring scabs without providing adequate health and safety training.

A call for a boycott of Porter was issued shortly after the strike began and, on February 28, the Ontario Federation of Labour organized

a rally to support the workers by shutting down access to and from the Island Airport. Affiliates from every sector responded to the call and hundreds of picketing union activists interfered with several flights. The police responded shamefully on the side of the employer by manhandling the demonstrators and calling in a police detachment on horseback to break up the peaceful action.

Undeterred, the OFL coordinated a follow-up rally on March 11 that again shut down access to the airport and impacted nearly two dozen flights. Meanwhile, the strikers themselves have organized several independent actions, including an occupation of the ferry that transports passengers to the island airport.

With the strength of the Porter business model resting on convenient service, disruptions in access to the airport may prove to be the strongest strategy for influencing the employer.

As this strike continues, support for the workers has been growing. Unions across the province have recognized the struggle of this



small group of vulnerable workers as part of a broader corporate attack on workers' rights.

Three unions—the Canadian Autoworkers Union, Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association, and Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation—have responded to the call for support by making substantial donations to the strikers amounting to more than \$60,000. After the OFL's second rally, CEP Local 79m also pledged to “adopt a striker” by donating \$250 a week. The OFL will generalize this campaign support by appealing to other unions to also “adopt a striker” and make financial contributions to ensure that the workers have the capacity to stay on strike for as long as it takes to get a fair contract.

Members of the flying public can support these workers by sending a message directly to Porter CEO Robert Deluce to let him know that they will not be flying Porter until the company provides a living wage and safe working conditions.

To send a message, visit LabourStart at: [www.labourstartcampaigns.net/show\\_campaign.cgi?c=1737](http://www.labourstartcampaigns.net/show_campaign.cgi?c=1737)

The labour movement will continue to stand firmly in support of these striking workers by mobilizing actions until Porter Airlines meets its obligations to treat its workers with dignity and respect.

*SID RYAN'S OP-ED TO THOMAS MULCAIR*

## OFL OFFERS FRIENDLY ADVICE ON FAIR TRADE TO NDP

APPEARED IN THE MARCH 7, 2013 PRINT EDITION OF TORONTO STAR

“It is always uncomfortable to give public advice to a friend, but when he is about to head down a perilous path, a good friend offers a strong warning.

This is how I feel about NDP Leader Thomas Mulcair's recent appeal to Canadians to remain open to the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA). If the NDP is seeking to demonstrate its thoughtfulness and moderation, this secret deal is not the right moment. NDP support for CETA — no matter how qualified — could lead Canadians down the wrong path.

Canada's experience with other free-trade agreements belies the myth that a free-trade agreement with the European Union could somehow reverse an already imbalanced trade relationship. According to economist Jim Stanford, CETA could expose Canadians to an even greater trade deficit and lead to the loss of as many as 152,000 jobs. CETA also grants rights to corporations that jeopardize the powers of Canadian governments at every level.

Such concerns are echoed by environmental organizations, labour unions, civil society groups and a growing number of researchers and experts. In fact, Council of Canadians Chairperson Maude Barlow has been at the forefront of opposing CETA's threat to water, education and other public services, and more than 80 municipalities and school boards have expressed concern, with more than 40 demanding to be exempt. Even a UN envoy this week signalled that this agreement would undermine the ability for Canada to support local economies and address poverty and hunger.

Despite this broad-based opposition, Mulcair is still musing about supporting CETA, but perhaps he'll listen to the candid counsel of a friend.

I think Mulcair already knows in his gut what is best for Canadians. In outlining the “deal-breaker” issues for the NDP, he proves why CETA must be rejected outright. After all, many of his non-negotiable issues — ranging from environmental protections to buy-local programs and Canadian banking regulations — are still on the table. Even Mulcair admits that despite his promise to defend the public interest, the NDP is up against “powerful, insider interests” — not to mention an all-too-willing Harper majority government.

What would these corporate interests gain at the expense of working people? The pharmaceutical industry is seeking to extend monopoly patent rights for their brand-name drugs, which the federal government has admitted would cost the public up to \$2 billion annually. The NDP says it can live with this if it is accompanied by compensation to the provinces and consumers, but this still leaves Canadian taxpayers footing the bill. In addition, European companies stand to win the right to legally challenge Canadian laws that interfere with their profits, even on issues that are of vital importance to Canadians like health care and the environment. And this is just the tip of the proverbial iceberg.

We already know much of what is at stake in the CETA negotiations because draft text has been leaked. So Mulcair's “wait-and-see” approach to CETA is dangerous, not moderate. It doesn't take a good lawyer — or even a union negotiator — to know that when the “final text” is plunked down on the table, it is too late to change the deal. Waiting for the Tories to reveal the final offer to Canadians before raising objection is akin to closing the barn doors after the horses have bolted.

This is all the more reason why the NDP should be denouncing CETA and publicly declaring that the fix is in. Exposing CETA as a “corporate bill of rights” isn't Chicken Little alarmism, it is speaking truth to corporate power. And it is this kind of principled commitment to values that led the NDP to a historic surge in 2011.

For the four and a half million NDP voters and the millions more they hope to win over, a willingness to bend your values is not inspiring leadership. If there is any lesson to be drawn from the past, surely it is from his Liberal counterparts who learned the hard way that if you forget what you stand for, then no one else will believe in you either.

I admire the confidence that Mulcair has earned from Canadians through his principled opposition in the House. When it comes to an international trade agreement that puts corporate interests ahead of the public interest, Canadians deserve no less. The NDP must seize this opportunity to offer an alternative vision for trade — one that is sustainable, equitable and fair.”

(Sid Ryan, President of the Ontario Federation of Labour)

# UN WOMEN'S CONFERENCE ADDRESSES VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

Union women from around the world gather in New York for the United Nations' 57<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW57), running from March 4 to 15, 2013. Of the over 6,500 delegates who attended the conference this year, 85 were trade union women from many different countries around the world. Among them were 27 Canadian sisters who were part of the CLC delegation.

The theme for UNCSW57 was "Violence Against Women & Girls" and the trade union delegation to UNCSW57 called upon all member states to take all necessary measures to immediately and without further delay prevent and remedy violence against women and girls.



OFL Secretary-Treasurer Nancy Hutchison joined 85 women as part of the trade union delegation to UNCSW57

The goal of the conference was to get all nations to commit to a document of 'agreed conclusions' - to form a consensus that had been absent from recent conferences in previous years.

OFL Secretary-Treasurer Nancy Hutchison attended the Conference and liaised with union and community agency sisters from around the world. Under the banner "no more words, time for action",

the trade union delegates advocated for: measures to address domestic violence, violence in the workplace; women's economic independence through decent work; access to public services to help victims of violence, and education measures as a means to prevent and eliminate violence. Trade unions also sought to be identified as legitimate stakeholders in the prevention of violence of women and girls.

After two weeks of tough negotiations, agreement was finally achieved. This means that member states will be required to increase their efforts to prevent violence against women and girls, provide assistance to victims so that they can recover, meet education objectives and strive towards gender equality.

## COMMUNITY

# STRAWBERRY CEREMONY CALLS FOR JUSTICE FOR STOLEN SISTERS



Hundreds gathered at Toronto Police Headquarters to demand investigations into missing and murdered Aboriginal women

THREE PHOTOS: JOEL DUFF



For the 8<sup>th</sup> year running, members of the Aboriginal community and allies have come together on February 14 to demand a national public inquiry into Canada's missing and murdered Aboriginal women.

According to research conducted by the Native Women Association of Canada (NWAC) under the Sisters In Spirit Program, approximately 600 Indigenous women have been murdered or gone missing over the past 30 years.

This year, all three OFL officers joined Joanne Webb, OFL Vice-President Representing Aboriginal Peoples, affiliates and community members at an action held at the Toronto Police Headquarters to demand justice for stolen sisters.

Demonstrators beat drums, sang songs, and rallied under the banner "NO MORE SILENCE." Throughout the crowd, protesters held placards with the names of murdered and missing women so they would not be forgotten.



PHOTO: NANCY HUTCHISON

WSIB Chair Elizabeth Witmer listens to concerns about policies that are negatively affecting injured workers and their families

## WITMER VISITS OFL TO MEET WITH COMPENSATION COMMITTEE

On April 3, the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) Chair Elizabeth Witmer attended a round table meeting with the OFL Workers' Compensation Committee and injured worker activists. The well attended meeting gave the committee an opportunity to raise concerns about the current direction of the WSIB.

At the meeting, OFL representatives, affiliates and partners in the advocacy and injured worker community raised concerns on a number of issues

related to benefit restrictions and reductions to loss of earnings entitlements, including those based on degenerative conditions which were asymptomatic prior to occupational injury.

Objection was also raised to the discretionary powers of WSIB claims managers in querying the opinions of treating physicians and reconsidering previous claim decisions without just cause. The priority in all claims assessments must be on protecting the claimant from unnecessary privacy

violations and ensuring a stability in support. For injured workers and their families who are relying on WSIB support for their own financial well-being, respect for the claimant must be paramount.

Some of the strongest criticism of the board focused on restrictions and limitations that have been placed on the appeals process precisely at a time when workers need access to a thorough and objective review of operating level decisions.

The OFL called for improvements to the appeals process to provide greater flexibility, relaxed timelines and more user-friendly online functionality in order to maximise ease of access and make the appeal process less intimidating. In order to assess the effectiveness of the appeal system and identify areas for improvement, the OFL strongly recommended the collection and publication of data on the nature, frequency and outcome of appeals of oral and written hearings.

The OFL called upon Witmer to implement all of Professor Harry Arthurs' recommendations on experience rating and develop an implementation plan. The only viable and fair alternative would be to immediately abandon the experience rating program altogether.

## OFL DELIVERS COMMUNITY INPUT ON SAFETY PREVENTION

Acting on recommendations from the 2010 Expert Advisory Panel, Ontario's newly minted Prevention Office announced plans to develop its first province-wide occupational health and safety strategy to establish a clear vision, goals and priorities for the years ahead. The Ministry of Labour released a consultation document this March to generate discussion and collect feedback and ideas for developing the strategy. The document specifically prioritizes the needs of vulnerable workers who have an increased risk of exposure to conditions that are hazardous to their health or safety and, through socio-economic circumstance, are unable to move from those conditions. Young workers, recent immigrants, Aboriginal peoples, older workers, new workers, temporary foreign workers, temp agency workers and those holding multiple part-time or low-paying jobs are identified as particularly vulnerable.

These workers are put at risk by employers who are not committed to safety, lack of knowledge of their rights, lack of experience

or training, fear of deportation and fear of reprisal for exercising their rights. However, the government has also identified difficulty in reaching out to these workers due to cynicism towards government, language limitations and working within the underground economy.

To better address these vulnerable populations, OFL has arranged for a special meeting of the Ontario Common Front with the Ministry's Chief Prevention Officer, George Gritziotis, and staff. Scheduled to take place at the OFL building from 10 am to 2 p.m. on April 17, the consultation session is expected to draw 75 community participants. This unique meeting will represent the first time that many marginal voices have been heard by the government.

The OFL's Health and Safety Committee will also participate in the consultation during a special meeting with the Ministry on April 16.

Submissions must be made to the Ministry of Labour before May 17. For information: [www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/hs/prevention/strategy.php](http://www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/hs/prevention/strategy.php)



# APRIL 28 REMEMBER

**National Day of Mourning  
for Workers Killed or  
Injured on the Job**

Every year, nearly 400 Ontario workers die on the job or from occupational disease and over 200,000 are injured at work.

To date, not one negligent employer has gone to jail. This year, fight for the living and mourn for the dead.

For April 28 events in your area, visit:

[www.whsc.on.ca/events/day\\_mourn.cfm](http://www.whsc.on.ca/events/day_mourn.cfm)

## OFL CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY

This year, as millions celebrated February as Black History Month, they also marked an important milestone in the movement to abolish slavery: the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passing of abolitionist Harriet Tubman. Born into slavery, Tubman's escape led her to dedicate her life to the freedom of all Black people. She led thirteen missions to personally rescue more than 70 slaves and served as a central figure in a network of anti-slavery activists. The history of the courageous activism of these early abolitionists is closely tied with Canada through the creation of the legendary Underground Railroad – a sophisticated and expansive network of allies, secret routes and safe houses that swept fugitive slaves to safety in free states and Canada throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Among the many Black Canadian activists who were celebrated and remembered by the labour movement this year were Ontario's Zanana Akande, June Veacock, Fred Upshaw, Rosemary Brown, Dudley Laws and Charles Roach.

The OFL paid tribute to Black History Month



OFL event teaches the history and practice of Steelpan drumming

and the incredible legacy of Harriet Tubman with a special exhibit in the main lobby of the OFL building that was jointly coordinated with renowned author, Itah Sadu (owner of the bookstore, "A Different Booklist"). Dubbed "Memories and Movements in African Canadian History," the events also celebrated the Steelpan movement, which was born out of resistance and through its resilience continues to play an active role in the lives of Canadians. Lectures, live music and drumming lessons were held over two days and many shared in the experience.



OFL Executive VP Irwin Nanda and author Itah Sadu showcase Tubman's legacy

The OFL also co-hosted an intergenerational discussion on race and racism within the Canadian political system with several labour unions and community partners. The evening event was called "Where is Our Obama?" and was intended to help racialized activists prepare for the next federal election.

The OFL worked with Black community activists to host a summit and various media events addressing the systemic causes of youth violence within marginalized communities.

## WOMEN DEMAND EQUAL PAY FOR WORK OF EQUAL VALUE

In Ontario, women are "in the red" because on average they earn 28 percent less than men for doing work of equal value. This shocking wage gap is even bigger for racialized women, women with disabilities, Aboriginal women and other marginalized women.

The pay gap is not only unfair, it hurts our communities and economy. Ontario's economy works because women work. Closing the pay gap will help create good jobs, stimulate the economy, increase productivity and competitiveness, and attract the most talented workers.

The Ontario Federation of Labour is working with the Ontario Equal Pay Coalition to change that by calling on labour and community activists to organize actions across the province to promote April 9, 2013 as "Equal Pay Day."

Across Ontario, pay equity activists will be organizing events and wearing red to raise awareness about the hidden and often illegal gender pay gap. The campaign is

designed to generating attention in the media and in the workplace in order to put pressure on government and corporate employers to change the compensation and employment policies which contribute to the wage gap.

We are calling on the Premier Kathleen Wynne to officially recognize the first Tuesday in April as "Equal Pay Day" because Tuesday is the day of the week that Ontario women's average earnings equal men's earnings from the previous week.

In the United States, President Obama established Equal Pay Day as a day to "recognize the full value of women's skills and their significant contribution to the labour force, acknowledge the injustice of wage discrimination and join efforts to achieve equal pay."

Equal Pay Day flyers and background materials are available on the OFL website: [www.ofl.ca/index.php/equalpayday2013](http://www.ofl.ca/index.php/equalpayday2013)

For information on the Equal Pay Coalition, visit: [www.equalpaycoalition.org](http://www.equalpaycoalition.org)



### COMMON FRONT AWARDS SOUTH ASIAN ACTIVISM

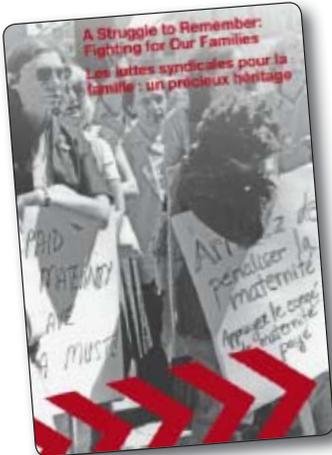
On June 1, labour and community groups will come together under the banner of the Ontario Common Front for a closing ceremony to celebrate South Asian Heritage Month and recognize community activists with awards. This event is scheduled to take place at Sagan Banquet Hall in Mississauga for an evening of performances, dinner and dancing.

For sponsorship information, individual tickets or to purchase a table, contact Paulette Hazel at 416-443-7667 or [phazel@ofl.ca](mailto:phazel@ofl.ca)

## MATERNITY LEAVE DOCUMENTARY

A new 20-minute documentary from Past Perfect Productions explores how Canadian feminists, unionists and political activists built a potent coalition, mobilized public opinion and achieved vast improvements in maternity leave and other family leave benefits.

To order your copy of the DVD, visit: [www.pastperfectpro.com](http://www.pastperfectpro.com)



Thousands of women took to the streets for International Women's Day

PHOTO: JOEL DUFF

## FIRING IT UP FOR IWD 2013

All three OFL officers joined sisters across Canada in celebrating March 8 as International Women's Day with a renewed call for gender justice, equity and an end to violence. Events were held across the province, but Toronto remains one of the only cities in North America that recognizes IWD with a militant

protest for women's rights.

For the third year, OFL's *March 8th Project* produced incredibly popular materials to celebrate IWD. In total, 12,000

pins were purchased by affiliates, along with thousands of posters.



## TRANS RIGHTS BILL PASSES

On March 30, 2013, proposed amendments to Bill C-279 were voted on by the House of Commons. The result was historic passage of the third and final reading of a federal bill amending the *Canadian Human Rights Act* and the *Criminal Code of Canada* to include 'gender identity' and 'gender expression' as protected grounds.

The passage of the bill was a significant step for equality but it requires the approval of the Senate to become law.

For too long, discrimination, harassment and hate-motivated violence against the trans community have continued to go unnoticed and unchallenged by the courts. A swift proclamation of this law would provide an important tool for changing that reality.



Around the world, one billion women and men took action to stop violence against women and girls

PHOTO: NANCY HUTCHISON

## RISING TOGETHER AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

On February 14, the Ontario Federation of Labour joined with people around the world for an international day of action, dance and resistance to demand an end to violence against women and girls.

Through the *One Billion Rising* campaign, women and men came together in unison to challenge gender-based violence—the world's largest and most persistent human

rights violation.

Despite the violent news reports that continue to shock the international community and the evidence that many more incidents go unreported, uninvestigated and unnoticed, Canadian authorities refuse to act on far too many cases of violence against women and, in particular, the violence against Aboriginal women.

"Here in Canada, actions placed a particular focus on the demand for a national inquiry into missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls. Canada's neglect of these women is a national shame," said OFL Secretary-Treasurer Nancy Hutchison. "We aren't going to wait for justice to be served."

The OFL issued an official statement endorsing the day of action and distributed an action plan to encourage affiliate involvement. All three OFL officers joined events in Toronto and OFL staff helped with planning and preparation. In cities and towns across Canada and around the world, actions were held in support of this incredible movement.

The international campaign website for *One Billion Rising* continues to be a valuable resource with photos, videos and multi-media materials from around the world: [www.OneBillionRising.org](http://www.OneBillionRising.org)

## OFL HUMAN RIGHTS STATEMENTS

During this reporting period, the OFL issued the following human rights statements:

Feb 1: **Black History Month**

Feb 14: **One Billion Rising**

March 8: **International Women's Day**

March 21: **International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**

All human rights statements of the OFL can be found under the "NEWS" tab at:

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

## BUILDING AN ONLINE NATION NEW ONLINE SOFTWARE POWERS OFL OUTREACH

The OFL partnered with the online campaign experts from **CampaignGears.com** to establish a new web-based platform to put powerful online support behind the OFL's campaigns.

The CampaignGears team brings together 15 years of experience in union organizing with 15 years of online support to help unions and non-profit organizations power their campaigns and to reach new audiences. In looking to establish the best online communications strategy possible, CampaignGears migrated all of the OFL email lists into a powerful online engine called **NationBuilder.com**.

Originally developed by Democratic Party organizers based on the strategies used in the 2008 Obama Campaign, NationBuilder is an online communications and campaign organizing tool that integrates website hosting, e-blast features, mass texting, event registration, donation support, volunteer coordination and street canvassing with social media tools like Facebook and Twitter.



## OFL DIRECTS SCHOLARSHIP AT NEW STUDENTS

**APPLICANTS FROM STUDENTS FROM EQUITY-SEEKING GROUPS ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED**

Each year, the OFL awards two Labour Post-Secondary Scholarships in the amount of \$2,000 each to member or the child of a member entering the first year of full-time post-secondary study.

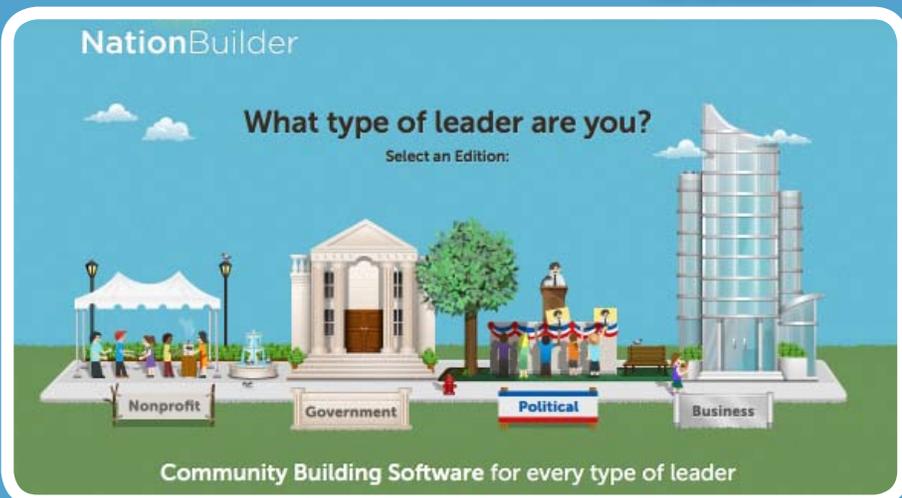
These scholarships are awarded in the names of retired or deceased trade unionists who made a significant contribution to the life and growth of the trade union movement in Ontario.

The OFL proudly encourages women, people of colour, Aboriginal people, LGBTQ people, people with disabilities and those from other equity-seeking backgrounds to apply for the scholarships. Candidates will be assessed blindly based on the following:

- A brief résumé outlining non-academic interests and activities, such as community or political involvement as well as future goals.
- Evidence of understanding of the role and significance of the Canadian labour movement.
- An essay of no more than 1,000 words in response to this year's topic.

The deadline for applying is May 10, 2013. Application information is available on the OFL website: [www.ofl.ca/index.php/scholarships](http://www.ofl.ca/index.php/scholarships)

For more information, please contact: Sylvia Stewart at 416-443-7677 or [SStewart@ofl.ca](mailto:SStewart@ofl.ca)



In contrast to simple e-blast systems that are strictly used to "push" information in one direction, NationBuilder is an interactive system that allows unions and organizations to connect with their supporters and move them up the ladder of engagement - from passive allies to active campaigners

The backbone of the NationBuilder platform is an amazing database that supports graphic E-Blast features that are as easy to use as other popular programs. However, NationBuilder takes these outreach tools to a whole new level by integrating your current email lists with all of your Facebook and Twitter followers to create a comprehensive profile for each of your members and supporters.

When OFL members, friends or followers share or like our content online, open emails or attend events, NationBuilder will update their record to reflect their level of support. When outreaching to our members, the OFL will now be able to segment our contact lists to engage different followers in different ways.

NationBuilder will also allow the OFL to host online event registration and integrate it with Facebook events in order to track attendance and accept registration fees.

The program also has a host of functions dedicated to street canvassing and volunteer management that have not yet been explored by the OFL, but we look forward to tapping into the expertise of CampaignGears team to make the most of these new tools.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## APR. 22-24: OFL WOMEN'S COMMITTEE STRATEGIC SESSION

The OFL's Women's Committee will be hosting a Strategic Session at the CAW Family Education Centre in Port Elgin from April 22 to 24.

Members of the committee and sisters from the OFL Executive Board will come together to review 2012 campaigns and develop a strategic work plan for 2013.

For information, contact: Carrol Anne Sceviour, OFL Director of Women's Issues at 416-347-9732 or [CSceviour@ofl.ca](mailto:CSceviour@ofl.ca)

## MAY 3: NOMINATIONS CLOSE FOR OFL LABOUR HONOUR ROLL

The nomination deadline for the OFL's Labour Honour Roll has been extended to May 3.

If you are proud of a retired or deceased activist from your union who made a significant contribution to the labour movement in Ontario, submit a nomination. We welcome nominations of individuals who reflect the diversity of our movement and who will be inspiring role models for generations to come.

For more information, please contact: Sylvia Stewart at 416-443-7677 or [SStewart@ofl.ca](mailto:SStewart@ofl.ca)

## MAY 10: APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR THE OFL'S LABOUR POST-SECONDARY SCHOLARSHIP

The OFL is offering two Labour Post-Secondary Scholarships in the amount of \$2,000 each to member or the child of a member entering the first year of full-time post-secondary study.

The application deadline is May 10, 2013.

Application information is available on the OFL website: [www.ofl.ca/index.php/scholarships](http://www.ofl.ca/index.php/scholarships)

## Injured Workers' Day 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



Queen's Park - Ontario Legislature  
walk north from Queen's Park Subway stop - College/University

**Saturday June 1<sup>st</sup>,  
2013 11:00 a.m.**

(overnight vigil begins at 4:00 p.m. Friday May 31<sup>st</sup>)

**Celebrate and call for  
justice for injured workers.**

**Workers' compensation is being destroyed  
to save employers money.**

**Demand justice!  
Question austerity!**

**Not on the backs of injured workers!**

For more information, call the Ontario Network of Injured Workers Groups (ONWIG) at 905-662-7128; IAVGO at 416-924-6477; IWC at 416-461-2411

## JUNE 1: INJURED WORKERS' DAY

To mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Injured Workers' Day, events will be held at Queen's Park in Toronto where injured workers, families and allies have gathered since 1983 to call for justice.

Help bring government attention to these issues.

Saturday, June 1, 2013 - starting at 11:00 am.

## JUNE 1: SOUTH ASIAN COMMUNITY ACTIVISM AWARDS

The Ontario Common Front is inviting community and labour allies to come together for a closing ceremony to celebrate South Asian Heritage Month and recognize community activists.

Events will take place at the Sagan Banquet Hall at 7180 Edwards Blvd, Mississauga, Ontario.

For more information and to purchase tickets or tables, contact Paulette Hazel at 416-443-7667 or [PHazel@ofl.ca](mailto:PHazel@ofl.ca)

## JUNE 14-16: OFL'S THIRD ABORIGINAL GATHERING

The OFL is hosting its Third Aboriginal Gathering from June 14 to 16 at the CAW Family Education Centre in Port Elgin. The event is open to anyone interested – whether they are Aboriginal people or allies. The Gathering is family-friendly and designed to strengthen support for Aboriginal people within labour and the community.

The registration fee is \$100.00 per person but space is limited, so registrations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration deadline is June 6, 2013.

For information, contact: Janice Gairey, OFL Human Rights Director at 416-347-9732 or [JGairey@ofl.ca](mailto:JGairey@ofl.ca)

## NOV. 24-29: OFL 12<sup>TH</sup> BIENNIAL CONVENTION

The 12<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention of the OFL will be held at the Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel from November 24-29, 2013.

Stay tuned to the OFL website for details.



## LABOUR & HUMAN RIGHTS DATES

**Apr 9** Pay Equity Day  
**Apr 10** "Pink Shirt" Anti-Bullying Day  
**Apr 22** Earth Day  
**Apr 28** Day of Mourning for Workers Killed or Injured on the Job  
**May** South Asian Heritage Month  
**May 1** May Day

**May 17** International Day Against Homophobia & Transphobia  
**Summer** LGBTQ Pride Celebrations  
**Jun 1-7** Sexual Harassment Awareness Week  
**Jun 1** Injured Workers' Day  
**Jun 12** World Day Against Child Labour  
**Jun 21** National Aboriginal Day

**Jun 27** National Multicultural Day  
**Aug 9** International Day of the World's Indigenous People  
**Sep 2** Labour Day  
**Sep 21** International Day of Peace  
**Oct 4** Sisters in Spirit Vigils  
**Oct 10** World Mental Health Day



*JULY 27, 1952 – MARCH 30, 2013*

## **PETER KORMOS**

### **WARRIOR FOR THE WORKING CLASS**

Welland MPP Peter Kormos – a one-of-a-kind socialist cowboy and a stalwart in Ontario's New Democratic Party for 23 years – hung up his signature cowboy boots on March 30, 2013 when he passed away peacefully in his home at age 60. There is no question that Peter left big boots to fill.

Peter has been eulogized by friends and politicians of every political leaning as a rebel, a maverick and a cowboy. He is universally recognized as a principled champion of the underdog. Peter's unrestrained "give 'em hell" approach earned him the love of his constituents, but his contrarian independent streak often ruffled the feathers of his colleagues in government and in his own caucus.

"There is no question that Peter's firebrand politics, brilliant speaking skills and unwavering convictions earned him a place as the true conscience of Queen's Park," said OFL President Sid Ryan. "Peter was born to speak truth to power and, while in government, he never suffered fools, opportunists or flip-flopers. He saved his loyalty for the working class."

Peter hailed from the blue-collar town of Welland where his father worked in the Atlas Steels plant. He grew up in the union hall and

never forgot his roots. Peter's tenacious idealism fueled his commitment to justice and caused him to lead a week-long high school strike against an autocratic principal and restrictions on students' right to expression. His campaign earned him an arrest and expulsion. Living on his own from the age of 16, Peter put himself through Toronto's Osgoode Hall Law School. He returned to Welland as a criminal defence lawyer where he earned a reputation for his pro bono work and his penchant for long-shot cases.

**"Peter was the true conscience of Queen's Park whose first loyalty was to the working class."**

**(OFL President Sid Ryan)**

Peter was first elected as the Ontario NDP MPP for Welland in a 1988 provincial by-election when he replaced veteran NDP legislator Mel Swart. He was re-elected in every subsequent Ontario general election until he retired from Queen's Park in 2011 and was promptly elected to the Niagara Regional Council.

Peter served as NDP House Leader from 2001 until his retirement in 2011 and also held numerous critic portfolios in Opposition, including Labour, Justice, Community Safety and Correctional Services, Consumer and Business Services, and Democratic Renewal.

From his first days in office, Peter established himself as one of Ontario's most eloquent and intellectual politicians, with a legendary encyclopedic knowledge of parliamentary procedure. In 1990, Peter launched into a 17-hour filibuster against the Liberal government's no-fault insurance plan that kept politicians sitting through the night as he sermonized without relying on written notes. It was an early signal to his colleagues and opponents that Peter's true loyalties were with the people he represented.

In government, as in life, Peter was, in the affectionate words of former NDP Leader Howard Hampton, "a brilliant man and a stubborn son-of-a-gun." He was a thorn in the side of Premiers of any stripe. In opposition, Peter was a principled watchdog who championed many issues and hounded the party's opponents. In government, he refused to be muzzled when his own party strayed from its values.



When the NDP formed government under then leader Bob Rae, Peter doggedly set upon the NDP Premier for caving on his promise to introduce public auto insurance.

Grasping for excuses to silence his internal critic, Rae booted Peter from cabinet in 1991, citing a recent controversy surrounding Peter's fully-clothed pose for a Toronto Sun "sunshine boy" feature as the cause. For the remainder of Rae's term in office, Peter acted as part of an unofficial "left opposition" within the NDP caucus. In 1993, he and three other colleagues—Dennis Drainville, Karen Haslam and Mark Morrow—were the only NDP MPPs to vote against the Rae government's notorious Social Contract legislation that imposed unpaid days off on civil servants. In 1996, Peter ran for leader of the NDP in a close three-way race with Frances Lankin and Howard Hampton. After Hampton took the top spot, Peter went on to play a prominent role within Opposition. He served as the NDP Labour Critic from 2001 to 2011 and during that time, proudly introduced anti-scab legislation in every legislative session.

Always a man of words, Peter was known for pouring over a thesaurus to find vivid and creative new ways to describe scabs for the government records. "Scabs, union busters, hired goons and other thugs ... earn their pay by busting unions and breaking up union drives," he said. "To allow corporate bosses to circumvent, to avoid, collective bargaining at the table by importing scabs is an outrage."

On another occasion, he declared: "Rats, sneaks, scabs and finks: Nobody likes any of them." According to Peter, "the most despicable form of life possibly conceivable, [is a scab] who would cross a picket line to steal a job from a worker fighting for a little bit of improvement."

**"I don't change my values the way some people change their socks."**

**(Peter Kormos)**

"Peter had a deep respect for working class people that permeated everything he did. He didn't believe that you could be a part-time supporter of Labour," said Ryan. "He stood by workers through every labour dispute, regardless of popular support. He defended our right to collectively bargain and when we were killed or injured on the job, he demanded justice and fair treatment for victims and survivors. Peter respected the NDP's labour roots and refused to shift his convictions with changing political winds. He was a true warrior for the working class."

Peter's deep respect for working people was most evident in the action he put behind his words. His outspoken support for organ donation and health care produced many memorable quotes and his dedication to child support for single mothers almost earned him

a criminal conviction. He dressed like a worker in the legislature and insisted on using bank tellers over ATMs. He was a regular presence on picket lines and at plant gates. Peter was truly a man of the people.

When he retired from provincial office, Peter told the Welland Tribune: "I've been incredibly lucky. ... I've been blessed to work in a job I would have done for half the price. Not too many working people have that luxury. Not too many working people do a job they love, enjoy and that inspires them."

The labour movement, joins working people across Ontario in mourning the loss of one of their most principled and straight-talkin' allies.

A memorial tribute to Peter Kormos will be held at Pleasantview Funeral Home & Reception Centre (located at the corner of Hwy 20 and Merrittville Hwy, Thorold 905-892-1699) on Saturday, May 11-2013 at 1:00 p.m.

Condolences can be left online at:  
[www.PleasantviewCemetery.ca](http://www.PleasantviewCemetery.ca) or  
[www.Facebook.com/Peter.Kormos.Welland](http://www.Facebook.com/Peter.Kormos.Welland)





FOR A JUST WORLD FREE OF VIOLENCE,



THE LABOUR MOVEMENT STANDS IN SOLIDARITY



WITH EVERY GENERATION,

COMMUNITY & TOGETHER FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS



ONTARIO FEDERATION OF LABOUR



WITH FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE,



WITH STUDENTS AND



WITH ONE BILLION PEOPLE WHO ROSE UP FOR JUSTICE