



P.6 JUSTICE FOR SAMMY YATIM



P.12 COMMON FRONT TAKES ON NEOLIBERALISM



P.10 CLC PUTS LABOUR FORWARD

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

ONTARIO FEDERATION OF LABOUR

FALL 2013



VOLUME 3, ISSUE 4



LABOUR'S LASTING RIDE WITH JACK

OFL CONVENTION
NOV. 24-29
P.22



P.12

COMMON FRONT ASSEMBLY INSPIRES UNITED ACTION

PHOTO: JOEL DUFF



P.14

RALLY CALLS ON PREMIERS TO DEFEND HEALTHCARE

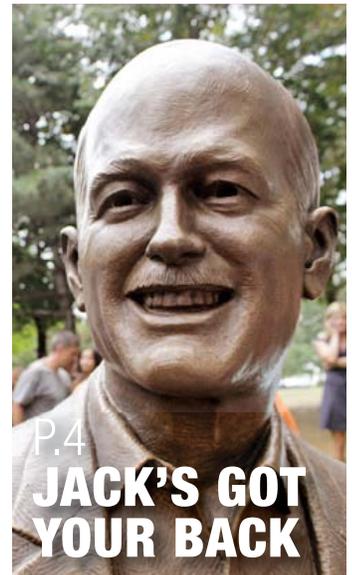
PHOTO: CRAIG SAUNDERS



P.8
**COURT HIKES
METRON FINE**



P.6
JUSTICE FOR SAMMY YATIM



P.4
**JACK'S GOT
YOUR BACK**

22 2013 OFL
CONVENTION

20 OFL STAFF
PROFILE

21 NEW
AFFILIATES

23 UPCOMING
EVENTS

FEATURES

ON THE COVER: Labour Movement Unveils Bronze Statue of NDP Leader Jack Layton 4
 Sammy Yatim Shooting Sparks Outrage 6
 Common Front Assembly Forges New Alliances 12

WORKERS' RIGHTS

CLC Launches "together FAIRNESS WORKS" 10
 OFL Paper Calls for Migrant Workers' Rights 11
 Sid Ryan Takes on the Fraser Institute 11

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

OFL Named to Ontario's Minimum Wage Panel 7
 Labour Leaders Meet With Premiers on Jobs 7
 NDP Takes Two Seats in Ontario Byelection 7

HEALTH & SAFETY/WCB

Appeal Court Quadruples Fine Against Metron 8
 Fatal Explosion Sparked by TSSA Privatization 9
 WSIB Consultation 9
 New Video Documents Plight of Injured Workers 9
 OFL Hosts Meeting With WSIB Chair 9

COMMUNITY SOLIDARITY

Rally Calls for Renewal of Health Accord 14
 People's Social Forum Set to Come to Ottawa 15

LABOUR SOLIDARITY

Canada's Newest Union Leads Labour Day 16
 Nanticoke Steelworkers Demand Canadian 17
 Bonfield Municipal Workers Fight for Fairness 17
 Job Security, Not Coke, Is It! 17
 Toronto Plaza Workers Resist Beastly Boss 17
 ATU 1624 Drives Campaign Against Fatigue 18
 U.K. Union Blocks Anti-Union "No-Hire" List 18

EQUALITY & HUMAN RIGHTS

Pride Across Ontario 19
 Celebrating Caribbean Carnival 19

OFL UPDATES

Sandra Clifford Retires with a Lasting Legacy 20
 2013 OFL Scholarship Winners 21
 OFL Convention is Themed "Rising Together" 22





OFL President Sid Ryan presents the bronze statue to Jack Layton's wife and family at the mouth of the entrance to the newly minted Jack Layton Ferry Terminal in Toronto

PHOTO: JOEL DUFF

JACK'S GOT YOUR BACK

OFL UNVEILS MAGNIFICENT BRONZE STATUE OF NDP LEADER JACK LAYTON

The OFL marked the second anniversary of the passing of Jack Layton with the much anticipated unveiling of a life-sized bronze sculpture of the beloved NDP Leader riding in the back seat of a tandem bicycle. Entitled, "Jack's got your back. Stronger Together: The Layton Memorial," the monument was erected on Toronto's Waterfront to welcome visitors to the newly minted Jack Layton Ferry Terminal and remind them of Jack's legacy of love, hope and optimism.

"It is fitting that the centrepiece of the statue is an empty front seat that invites visitors to climb on the tandem bicycle and take a ride with Jack," said OFL President Sid Ryan. "Visitors will immediately understand the significance of Jack riding in the back seat because Canadians know that Jack always had their back."

The memorial was initiated two years ago by a resolution submitted to the OFL convention just months after Jack's death. The OFL worked closely with MP Olivia Chow to bring the project to life, but it was the generous donations of

labour unions, organizations and individuals that made it a reality. The fundraising goal of \$350,000 was easily surpassed and the City of Toronto resolved to support the project through the donation of land. The beautiful crafting of master sculptor David Pellettier and the renowned team at MST Bronze Limited rendered a stunning monument.

In many years, after all of us are gone, this bronze sculpture will endure as a tribute to the optimism Jack stood for - Olivia Chow

"I have raised many donations in my time, but none have been as enthusiastically contributed as the donations to this monument," said Ryan. "Workers across the country were inspired by Jack's leadership and felt that it was important to share his message with future generations."

All three OFL officers stood with the group of illustrious labour donors to present the statue to Jack's family and representatives of the City of Toronto, as a gift from the labour movement to the people of Canada.

"When Jack and I rode our tandem together, I was always in the back seat. For years, I had Jack's back and now he has yours," said Chow. "In many years, after all of us are gone, this bronze sculpture will endure as a tribute of the optimism Jack stood for."

The statue will be viewed by an estimated two million people every year.

"Jack will be remembered as a champion of working people. He even dedicated his last speech in Parliament to the defence of the rights of Canada's postal workers," said Ryan. "We hope that this statue serves as a reminder of Jack's positive message that inspired so many ordinary Canadians to dream of a better life, a better world and a brighter future."

Visit the OFL's Jack Layton statue at 9 Queens Quay West at the mouth of Toronto's Waterfront.



PHOTO: TORONTO STAR

This touching tribute was made possible by the generous donations of labour unions, organizations and hundreds of individuals who made personal donations:

PLATINUM LEVEL DONORS

- Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 113
- American Income Life (AIL)
- Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) National
- Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Ontario Division
- Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) National
- Communications, Energy and Paperworkers' Union of Canada (CEP) National and Ontario Region
- International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAMAW) Canada
- International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 353
- Ironworkers Local 721
- Koskie Minsky, LLP
- Labourers' International Union of North America Ontario Provincial District Council (LIUNA OPDC)
- Labourers' International Union of North America (LIUNA) Local 183
- Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA)
- Ontario Federation of Labour (OFL)

- Ontario Pipe Trades Council (OPTC)
- Ontario Sheet Metal Workers' & Roofers' Conference (OSMWRC)
- ONTFED Building Company Ltd
- Power Workers' Union (PWU)
- Sheet Metal Workers' & Roofers' Local Union 30 (SMWIA)
- Union Calling
- United Association (UA) Local 46
- United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Canada National Office and Locals 175, 633 & 1000A
- United Steelworkers (USW) Canadian National Office
- United Steelworkers (USW) Districts 3, 5, 6 and International

GOLD LEVEL DONORS

- Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) International
- Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Local 966
- Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO)
- Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF)

SOCIAL MEDIA CORNER

E-NEWSLETTER

Sign up for the OFL's new e-blast updates by visiting <http://ofl.nationbuilder.com/signmeup>

TWITTER

Sign up for a free Twitter account at www.Twitter.com

Follow & Retweet the OFL at:

 **OFLabour**

 **SidRyan_OFL**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

ONTARIO FEDERATION OF LABOUR

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

Volume 3, Issue 4 of the **OFL President's Report** was produced for the September 17, 2013 meeting of the Executive Board of the Ontario Federation of Labour.

How to reach us:

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

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

416-441-2731 • 1-800-668-9138
TDD: 416-443-6305 • FAX: 416-441-1893

info@ofl.ca



This document was proudly produced with unionized labour: JD/ph:cope343



OFL Executive Vice-President Irwin Nanda hosts a packed media conference with Karyn Greenwood-Graham and the families of victims of police shootings immediately preceding a public rally for justice for Sammy Yatim

OFL CALLS FOR JUSTICE FOR SAMMY YATIM

POLICE SHOOTING SPARKS OUTRAGE OVER “TOTAL BREAKDOWN IN THE POLICING SYSTEM”

Questions about the police response to crisis incidents were re-ignited across Ontario after news broke on July 27 that 18-year-old Sammy Yatim had been shot dead and then tasered on an empty Toronto streetcar. The entire incident was caught on video and sparked public outrage over the excessive use of force. The OFL responded by demanding an independent investigation into police training, policies and practices from the highest levels of decision-making right down to the front line response.

The OFL worked with community partners, like the Urban Alliance on Race Relations, the Black Action Defense Committee and the Never Again Coalition, to give profile to the families of victims of police shootings and highlighting the need to change the culture of policing.

“We cannot continue to treat each police shooting as an anomaly while the bodies are piling up,” said OFL President Sid Ryan. “Sammy Yatim wasn’t just killed by the volley of bullets that night, he was killed by a police response that failed him at every level.”

Before a mass community rally on August 13, OFL Executive-Vice President Irwin Nanda hosted a packed media conference with the families of several victims of police shootings to demand answers as to why recommendations from a 2002 report on the police use of excessive force were never implemented, despite receiving the endorsement of the Toronto Police Service.

This isn’t one bad apple or even a bad barrel; it is a systemic failure of policing - Irwin Nanda

“The dangerous consequences of police over-reactions to crisis incidents have been thoroughly examined and a road map for reform has already been written, yet more than a dozen lives have been senselessly lost over the past 20 years,” said Nanda. “This isn’t the case of one bad apple or even a bad barrel, it is systemic failure of policing and it is costing precious lives.”

Following the public outcry, investigations were announced at several levels and Officer James Forcillo, who shot nine bullets that allegedly struck Yatim eight times, was charged with second-degree murder. This marked only the second case in which an on-duty Toronto officer has received such a charge.

While Ontario Ombudsman André Marin announced a province-wide review the use of deadly force and Toronto Police Chief Bill Blair finally ceded to public pressure to conduct a full investigation of his force, Community Safety and Correctional Services Minister Madeleine Meilleur has merely responded by announcing plans to issue tasers to front lines police officers throughout the province.

The OFL has called all of these measures “insufficient justice” and continues to campaign for the Attorney General of Ontario to impose uniform guidelines across the province that require police officers to focus on de-escalation before resorting to the use of force.

Watch the OFL video calling for justice for Sammy Yatim: <http://youtu.be/QPGQRHdhtzq>

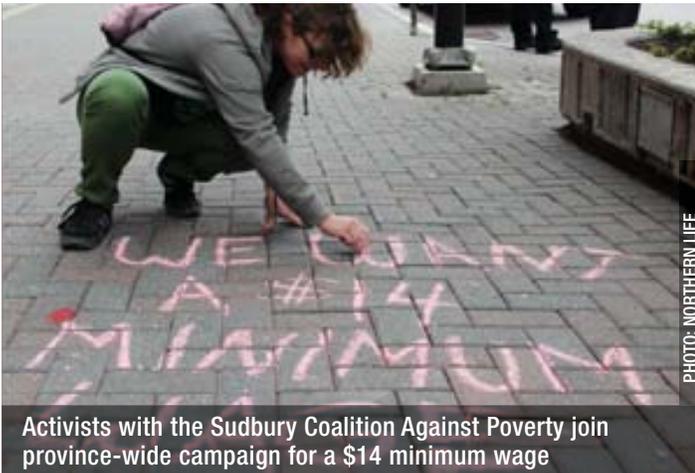


PHOTO: NORTHERN LIFE

Activists with the Sudbury Coalition Against Poverty join province-wide campaign for a \$14 minimum wage

MINIMUM WAGE PANEL

In her first budget, Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne responded to pressure from the OFL by appointing an advisory panel to propose recommendations for the province's minimum wage. While still short of an immediate increase in the minimum wage, this represents a significant opportunity for change. The panel is being chaired by Anil Verma,

University of Toronto professor of Human Resource Management, and has business, worker, labour and youth representatives. One of the labour representatives is the OFL's Antoni Shelton.

The panel is hosting public consultations throughout the fall. For information, visit: www.Labour.gov.on.ca/english/es/regional.php



Star candidate Peggy Sattler attracted strong union backing and easily seized the London West riding from the Liberals

BYELECTION UPDATE

Ontario's five August 1st byelections were tough on the ruling Liberals, leaving Premier Kathleen Wynne's party with fresh, but not fatal wounds. Wynne lost three of five Liberal strongholds, two to the NDP and one to the Tories.

The ongoing gas plant scandal and the misspending of millions at eHealth and Ornge weighed heavily

on the minds of disillusioned voters, but a growing frustration with the Liberal's destructive austerity regime pushed many former Liberal supporters to the NDP.

Winning the London West seat with Peggy Sattler and Windsor-Tecumseh with Percy Hatfield, Andrea Horwath was the big winner on election night.

PROVINCIAL & TERRITORIAL LABOUR FEDERATIONS SECURE HISTORIC MEETING WITH PREMIERS

As Canada's provincial and territorial premiers assembled in Niagara-on-the-Lake for their annual Council of the Federation meeting, their counterparts in the labour movement assembled as well—in less chic digs in nearby Niagara Falls—to develop a common message to the premiers.

The OFL played host to this year's meeting of Canada's labour leaders and secured an unprecedented meeting between leaders of the labour movement and three of Canada's premiers—Kathleen Wynne (Ontario), Darrell Dexter (Nova Scotia) and Greg Selinger (Manitoba).

At a meeting, the Federation presidents called on the premiers to put pressure on the federal government to double the Canada



PHOTO: JOEL DUFF

Premiers from Ontario, Nova Scotia and Manitoba represent Canada's premiers at a special meeting with labour

Pension Plan and renew the 2004 Health Accord, but the main focus of their talks was on jobs, training, the Temporary Foreign Worker Program, Employment Insurance and Canada's labour market.

"The Harper government is

driving down wages and working conditions for all Canadians," said Lana Payne, President of the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Labour. "The latest changes to Employment Insurance will be terrible for the labour market

and damaging for the economy."

"The provinces must reject this low-wage agenda," said Sid Ryan, President of the Ontario Federation of Labour. "It is time to bring all of the stakeholders together to develop economic strategies to boost productivity rather than low wages.

Gil McGowan, President of the Alberta Federation of Labour said: "Canada must scrap the low-skill stream of the Temporary Foreign Worker Program and every province should follow Manitoba and Saskatchewan in implementing legislation that protects migrant workers from abuse and exploitation.

Labour followed up their positive meeting by joining the mass rally to renew Canada's Health Accord the following day.



METRON CONSTRUCTION RECEIVES HISTORIC FINE

APPEAL COURT QUADRUPLES CRIMINAL NEGLIGENCE FINE TO \$750,000

PHOTO: LYNN SIMMONS

The OFL's *Kill a Worker, Go to Jail* campaign won a significant victory with an appeal court decision in early September that increased the criminal negligence fine against Metron Construction from \$200,000 to \$750,000 for the 2009 deaths of four workers and the serious injury of a fifth.

"You cannot put a price on a life because no financial penalty can bring these workers back or fill the void left in their families, but the magnitude of this fine will send a powerful message to employers that the lives of workers can't be written off as the cost of doing business," said OFL President Ryan.

Last summer, the OFL leveled harsh criticisms against a judicial system that allowed a criminally negligent employer to walk free after putting the lives of workers at risk.

That strong reaction of Ontario's labour movement followed a July 2012 hearing that sentenced Metron Construction to pay a mere \$200,000 fine for criminal negligence, while its sole owner and director, Joel Swartz, escaped criminal conviction. Swartz struck a plea with the court to escape criminal charges in favour of paying a \$90,000 fine to the Ministry of Labour.

Metron's sentence marked the first time in history that an Ontario company was convicted

in a criminal court for a workplace death since the Criminal Code of Canada was amended in response to the 1992 Westray Mine Disaster. It concluded a criminal investigation that began after the December 24, 2009 collapse of a swing stage at a west Toronto high-rise that resulted in five workers plunging 13 stories during construction repair.

Panel of three judges unanimously declared a \$200,000 fine is "demonstrably unfit."

Read the court ruling:
<http://www.ontariocourts.ca/decisions/2013/2013ONCA0541.htm>

The tragedy's sole survivor, Dilshod Marupov, remains in constant pain with no hope of ever regaining his former physical health. The 25-year-old worker requires heavy pain medication and continuing counselling to deal with anxiety and depression.

However, the historic conviction was marred by the paltry penalty that was levied against the convicted company. The OFL said the sentence sent a "disgraceful message that a worker's life was only worth \$50,000" and called on the Crown to appeal the \$200,000.

A year after the appeal was filed, a panel of three judges ruled that the \$200,000 fine was "demonstrably unfit" and ordered a new fine of \$750,000. A 15 percent "victim fine surcharge" of \$112,500 was also levied against the company, bringing the total fine against Metron up to \$862,500. Despite the quadrupled penalty, the OFL stands resolutely behind its *Kill a Worker, Go to Jail* campaign demanding jail sentences for negligent employers.

"We won't stop campaigning for justice until bad bosses learn that they can't buy their way out of criminal responsibility," said Ryan. "When employers sacrifice the lives of workers in pursuit of profits, they must be marched from the board room to a prison cell."

A trial against Metron Project Manager, Vadim Kazenelson, is said to be delayed until fall of 2014. The OFL will continue to press for justice and jail time for every employer who puts a worker's life in danger.

TSSA INCOMPETENCE LED TO TRAGIC EXPLOSION

The incompetence of the Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) was thrust into the spotlight again this summer.

On June 27, Sunrise Propane was convicted of nine violations of environmental or safety regulations following an explosion in August 2008 that killed a worker, injured several nearby residents and sent debris, asbestos and fear through a Toronto neighbourhood. A firefighter was also killed fighting a fire caused by the explosion. In this tragic accident, inadequate TSSA oversight led to entirely avoidable deaths and injuries.

The TSSA is responsible for protecting public safety in key areas such as fuel and elevators. This ruling came just weeks after a shocking conflict of interest involving the TSSA was revealed during the elevator workers' strike.

The OFL called the TSSA "a classic example of how self-regulation is ineffective, inadequate and dangerous" and demanded its return to public hands.



VIDEO TELLS PLIGHT OF INJURED WORKERS

A new video produced by the Ontario Network of Injured Worker Groups (ONIWG) tells the important story of the struggles for justice of injured workers in Ontario from the early 1900's to the present day. Using historical records such as testimony from Royal Commissions, letters from injured workers to government and Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) documents, photographs and video clips, "Their Only Power Was Moral," highlights and analyzes the challenges facing injured workers in Ontario.

For copies, contact: oniwg@sympatico.ca or 905-662-7128.



OFL HOSTS MEETING WITH WSIB CHAIR DAVID MARSHALL

Following on the heels of an OFL Workers' Compensation Board Committee meeting in April of this year, the OFL invited WSIB President and CEO David Marshall and ten senior Board officials to its June 21 meeting. The OFL WCB Committee addressed a key number of priority issues where unions are having difficulty with the adjudication of claims.

Marshall committed to re-establishing the WSIB's Best Practices Working Group. This group meets with senior board staff to identify inconsistencies and problem adjudication areas and develops adjudicative advice documents. These documents allow injured worker representatives to ensure that claims are being adjudicated in a proper manner.



UPDATE ON WSIB CONSULTATION

In June 2013, the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) released the final report of the Benefits Policy Review Consultation chaired by Jim Thomas. The report is more modest and less clear than many had hoped, but, excepting a few areas of concern, most of the recommendations are positive steps forward. The report set the stage for better policies than those initially proposed by the Board.

One of Thomas' most important recommendations to the Board is that, in the future, if the WSIB believes it needs to re-draw the work-relatedness line, it should provide stakeholders with a discussion paper explaining its reasons – and those reasons should not be based on cost.

"Entitlement to benefits is established through causation provisions in the Act," said Thomas. "None of those provisions include the WSIB's ability to pay as a factor in deciding where to draw the line."



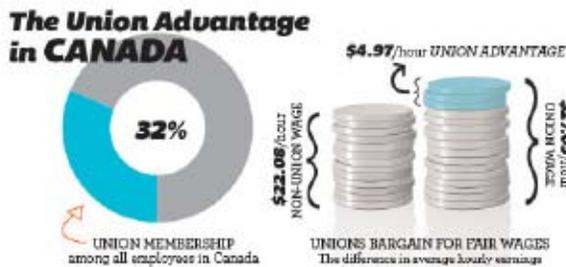
CLC SEEKS TO PUT SPOTLIGHT ON FAIRNESS NATIONAL MEMBER-TO-MEMBER ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM LAUNCHED ON LABOUR DAY

The Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) marked Labour Day this year with the launch of a nation-wide member-to-member engagement program under the banner “together FAIRNESS WORKS” and the Ontario Federation of Labour has pledged its full support. Together, the labour movement has set out an ambitious goal – to have three million conversations with union members on the value of union membership. But this cannot be accomplished unless the leadership of every union and every local dedicates the energy and resources needed to connect with their combined membership and tip the balance in the public relations war with corporate Canada.

“It is time for the labour movement to learn how to communicate differently with the public and deliver our message as simply as possible. Our goals and our work are really all about fairness,” said Ken Georgetti, President of the CLC. “We have to take the time to explain the union advantage. In monetary terms, that

advantage is an average of five dollars more per hour for a union worker, in societal terms it means greater equality for everyone.”

Following several months of development, consultations with affiliates and pilot testing, new education workshops have been developed to support the initiative.



The CLC has launched a national website and produced a host of sharp promotional materials that affiliates can customize for use in their workplaces, in training workshops on member engagement, and in public relations. However, the strength of the labour movement is an active and engaged membership.

Leaders' Seminars will be held in 18 locations across Canada during the month of September to outline the context and research behind this pan-Canadian initiative and lay out tools and steps for leaders to integrate into existing member engagement strategies or to launch a new strategy.

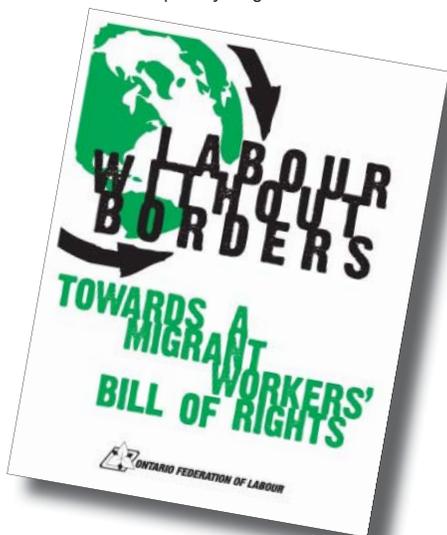
The Leaders' Seminars focus on planning and strategizing, and are tailored to meet the needs of a diversity of local presidents, officers and senior staff. This first phase focuses on “starting” or “changing” the conversations with union members with the ultimate goal of building a strong membership base united on the value of their union.

The OFL is calling on every affiliate and local to make it a priority to register their local union leadership for the closest seminar.

For more information and a list of seminar details, contact ontario@clc-ctc.ca or visit: <http://www.canadianlabour.ca/action-center/together-fairness-works>

OFL CALLS FOR MIGRANT WORKERS' "BILL OF RIGHTS"

Under the Harper government's watch, the number of migrant workers coming to Canada has grown dramatically and Canada's intake of migrant workers is vastly outpacing the number of economic immigrants. In Ontario, this has meant that in 2012, only 49,000 economic immigrants were granted permanent residency, while over 70,000 migrant workers were given temporary work permits. This trend represents a dramatic shift towards temporary migration.



Many migrant workers who find themselves working in Canada encounter a new and unfamiliar country, where they don't know the laws and often don't speak the language. In many cases, they have travelled from some of the world's most economically depressed conditions to strive for a better life for their families. These circumstances that make migrant workers so deserving of protection also make them vulnerable to exploitation.

Without adequate education, advocacy and protection, many migrant workers will continue not to report or resist abuses, injuries or unfair treatment. The persistence of their exploitation creates downward pressure on the wages and working conditions of all workers in Canada.

The OFL has launched a public call for an end to this exploitation by establishing a migrant workers' bill of rights. Read the full report: <http://ofl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/08-MigrantWorkers-Report.pdf>



WE CAN'T AFFORD U.S. LABOUR LAWS

BY SID RYAN

This op-ed originally appeared in the Financial Post on Friday, September 6, 2013

If stripping workers of their collective rights is being championed as an economy boosting measure, be afraid – be very afraid. That is the thesis of a new Fraser Institute report that calls on Canada to import American legislation that would gut our labour laws and outlaw democratically-determined union dues.

In truth, there is absolutely no evidence to support the claim that these notorious and dubiously dubbed “right-to-work” laws have been able to deliver on their promise of job creation or economic gains. Zero. Anyone who argues otherwise – and Tim Hudak and the Fraser Institute are among Canada’s primary culprits – is simply dressing up their ideology as “research.” These cheerleaders for “worker choice reforms” are rebranding failed American laws that have driven down wages on the basis of flawed and selective data.

The Fraser Institute’s recent study is a prime example. The authors make the spurious claim that allowing workers to opt-out of paying union dues would lead to significant economic gains in Canada. However, they conveniently ignore any study that contradicts their conclusion, including a large body of evidence that shows that these laws delivered no demonstrable benefit to the economy. Studies from Ball State, Michigan State and Hofstra Universities found that because the impact of “right-to-work” legislation on the manufacturing sector differed greatly between states, other factors have a much more important impact on economic growth and job creation.

The fact that the Fraser Institute chose to cite Oklahoma as the poster child for American labour laws is particularly revealing of its hidden agenda. First, its claim that Oklahoma’s manufacturing output improved in the years following the passage of “right-to-work” laws defies sound economic analysis which would control for regular business cycle effects. More importantly, however, is the fact that Oklahoma shed over

50,000 manufacturing jobs during the same period. This begs the question of whose interests are being served by these legislative reforms – the corporations who continue to turn a profit or the people they put out of work?

The most important evidence that the Fraser Institute chooses to leave out is that anti-worker laws would undeniably leave Ontarians working for lower wages and fewer benefits. The OFL report, “Working for Less: The Coming Threat to Union Security in Ontario,” highlights research showing that in 18 of 22 “right-to-work” states wages are below the national median, and studies from Princeton and the University of Nevada that show wages plummeting in Idaho and Oklahoma respectively, after the introduction of ‘right to work’ laws. The impact of such laws could be even greater in Canada because higher wages leave more room to fall.

When Tim Hudak holds up last year’s relocation of London, Ontario’s Caterpillar plant to Muncie, Indiana as evidence that good wages are a barrier to good business, he is really telling the families of Canadian workers that they deserve to live on less while corporations scour the globe for the greatest profits.

Stripping workers of their collective rights never actually creates jobs, it simply shuffles them between low-wage jurisdictions and forces workers to compete against their counterparts across borders and state lines. This sets off a race to the bottom that is driven by corporate greed and can only be kept in check by strong opposition from workers themselves. Unions provide that crucial counter-balance.

If the corporate and conservative backers of the Fraser Institute truly had the welfare of all Canadians in mind, they would recognize that strong unions raise the bar – for all workers – on wages, benefits and working conditions, and that families with decent livelihoods have more money to spend on services and small businesses that help the economy thrive.

Stripping workers of their collective rights never creates jobs



Any collective struggle that matters has to embrace education as the centre of politics
 - Henry Giroux

COMMON FRONT ASSEMBLY FOSTERS COMMUNITY/LABOUR ALLIANCES

After almost two years of engagement organizing, the Ontario Common Front has matured into a leading community/labour coalition. While the Common Front previously sponsored two successful general assemblies, the August 19th assembly, attracted an impressive 250 activists during the summer in Toronto. The co-sponsorship and participation of the Canadian Federation of Students, enhanced the perspectives and experiences shared throughout the assembly. Delegates from across the province included anti-poverty networks, retiree groups, first nations organizations, trade unions, local labour councils and many more. Notably, the assembly also drew labour participants from Montréal, Québec.

Among the guest speakers were: Indigenous sovereignty activist Melissa Elliott who is Haudenosaunee, Tuscarora Nation Turtle clan from Six Nations of the Grand River Territory; Deena Ladd, coordinator of the Workers' Action Centre; Michael Harrington, from the Chicago Teachers'

Union; Bridgett DePape, the former parliamentary page who disrupted the 2011 Throne Speech by raising a 'Stop Harper' sign and who is now with ShitHarperDid; spoken word artist Ritallin (a.k.a. A. Gregory Frankson) and McMaster University labour studies graduate student Pam Frache.

We must work together across our movements ... to challenge the neoliberal agenda - Nancy Hutchison

Dr. Henry Giroux, Chair in Communications and Cultural studies at McMaster University delivered a memorable keynote speech entitled, "Neoliberal Savagery and the War on Youth in Dark Times." "Any collective struggle that matters has to embrace education as the center of politics and the source of an embryonic vision of the good life outside of the imperatives of

predatory capitalism," said Giroux. "This is a challenge for young people and those invested in the promise of democracy that extends not only the meaning of politics, but also its commitment to struggle and social and economic change."

This idea of education as the center of politics was developed in the discussion paper "Social Movements & the Defeat of Neoliberalism" written for the Common Front by Edgar Godoy and Antoni Shelton. The paper reviews lessons learnt from social movements and lays out a plan to strategically 'grow the tent' by engaging students, community and union supporters in educational and direct action. The August 19th assembly was carefully planned as one such educational where the big picture was discussed and skill-building was part of the agenda. It is also where ideas for a People's Agenda can be developed and direct action planned.

"We must work together across our movements to build long-term networks, fuse alliances between students and workers



Left: Keynote speaker Henry Giroux calls for a challenge to the globalization of power
 Right: Over 250 activists roll up their sleeves to develop a People's Agenda for Ontario

and develop frameworks that can challenge the neoliberal agenda locally, nationally and internationally,” said OFL Secretary-Treasurer Nancy Hutchison, who chairs the Common Front. “Challenging racism, sexism, homophobia, Islamophobia, xenophobia and all forms of oppression are a central part of meaningful solidarity.”

The assembly also featured breakout groups tasked with fleshing out an alternative vision for social, economic and environmental justice. Afternoon workshops focused on the Ontario-wide campaign for a \$14.00 minimum wage, the 2014 Peoples’ Social Forum in Ottawa, deep organizing strategies led by ACORN Canada and the development of educational resources.

The upbeat mood and energy of the participants reflected an appetite to challenge neoliberalism and a determination to rebuild the alliances and networks so crucial to the struggles ahead. While the Common Front steering committee should be recognized for their ongoing commitment to building labour-community alliances, the long, hard work of growing the tent and building alternatives to neoliberalism needs to prepare us for upcoming elections at all levels of government from now until 2015.



Indigenous activist Melissa Elliot highlighted the Idle No More movement, as well as the campaign to stop Enbridge’s Line 9 from pumping tar sands oil east



OFL’s Nancy Hutchison Chairs the Common Front and opened the assembly with a call for solidarity across all sectors in challenging austerity and the corporate agenda

ALL PHOTOS ON THIS SPREAD: JOEL DUFF



The Ontario Health Coalition and the Canadian Health Coalition lead a community rally for public medicare outside the premiers' meeting in Niagara-on-the-Lake in July

RALLY CALLS FOR ACTION FROM PREMIERS AS HARPER EDGES AWAY FROM HEALTH CARE

Over 2,000 people travelled to Niagara-on-the-Lake at the end of July to call on the premiers of all of Canada's provinces and territories to issue a united call to the Harper government to uphold national public medicare and renew the Canada Health Accord in 2014.

Penned in 2004, the 10-year health accord set priorities to improve access to health care and established a new funding formula that effectively reversed the cuts of the 1990s. The accord has helped to stabilize Canada's healthcare system, improve access and increase the federal share of healthcare funding, but virtually all of the other initiatives set out by the first ministers in the accord have since been abandoned by the Harper Conservative government.

As the last joint premiers meeting prior to the expiry of accord next summer, this represented an important opportunity to raise an issue that is vital to the lives of all Canadians. Spearheaded by the Ontario Health Coalition and the Canadian Health Coalition, with the support of the OFL and many labour and community partners, the

protestors came together for an educational "Shadow Summit" and a mass rally outside of the premiers' meeting.

"The federal Conservative government's antipathy to public medicare is becoming more and more overt," said Ontario Health Coalition Director Natalie Mehra. "Not only has it walked

Harper has bluntly refused to meet with provincial governments about renewing the funding formula for health care - Natalie Mehra

away from the table on a national drug program and home care, but Harper has bluntly refused to meet with provincial governments about renewing the funding formula for health care."

According to the Ontario Health Coalition, Ontario has lost 18,500 hospital beds over

the last 23 years, a period during which the provincial population has grown by more than three million.

In December 2011, the Harper government announced plans to cut \$36 billion from federal health care transfers to the provinces once the accord expires in 2014. The federal government has also cut health care for refugees and other groups and walked away from a national pharmacare program that would have provided prescription drug coverage to all Canadians.

The impact of further cuts would be devastating to all Canadians and the future of health care in Canada hangs precariously in the balance of this accord.

"Public health care is something every Canadian cares about," said CUPE Ontario President Fred Hahn. "For years, budgets have been squeezed while the population grows. As a result, communities across the province are losing hospital beds and emergency rooms are closing. It is time for leadership on health care."

Watch the OFL video of the rally to Stand Up for Health Care: http://youtu.be/i1P3_zsu-Y4



PHOTO: JOEL DUFF



PHOTO: JOEL DUFF

Community and youth activists highlighted the devastating impact of cuts to public health care



PHOTO: CRAIG SAUNDERS

CUPE officers Fred Hahn, Candace Renneck and Paul Moist were joined by hundreds of members



A PEOPLE'S SOCIAL FORUM CANADA-QUÉBEC-INDIGENOUS SOLIDARITY IN CHALLENGING NEOLIBERALISM

Anger and discontent against the ruling Conservative government is on the rise all across Canada. Human rights groups, women's organizations, cultural associations, environment groups, labour, Indigenous peoples, students, generally civil society organizations feel threatened and angered by the government's policies and actions.

Protests for social and environmental justice have been erupting all over the country. In the past two years, massive and sustained protests have spread across Canada and Québec through the Cassroles, Occupy and Idle No More movements.

These calls for justice have drawn much of their strength from young activists and have coalesced into a broad and amorphous movement to challenge the social, economic and environmental damage of neoliberal austerity policies.

Emerging out of this disparate opposition is a growing call for collective action, coordination between activists and the development of concrete and inspiring alternatives. Taking their lead from World Social Forums that began in Porto Alegre, Brazil in 2001 and spread throughout the world, activists in Canada and Québec have come together to organize a People's Social Forum in Ottawa some time in late August or early September, 2014.

The central purpose of the Forum is to challenge what has become known as the TINA Syndrome—the unfortunate resolve that “there is no alternative”—and spread the notion that “another world is possible.” However, it is the grassroots model of the Forum that offers the most potential for the emergence of new and radical alternatives.

A RECIPE FOR CHANGE:

- A grassroots approach to organizing;
- Horizontal decision-making;
- Solidarity across movements;
- Opposition to neoliberalism and all forms of oppression;
- Commitment to equality, social justice and the sovereignty of all peoples

Using a horizontal approach to decision-making, organizers from diverse labour unions, groups, organizations and communities of dissent have begun the process of reaching out to a plurality of social movements across Canada, Québec

and Indigenous communities. Two mass organizing meetings have already been held to bring together the necessary resources and mandate to host a successful Forum in 2014.

The short-term goal of the People's Social Forum is to draw together existing struggles to form a united and cohesive front against the Conservative agenda of austerity and privatization. However, the long-term goal is to transform the current political, economic and social paradigm, by employing creative resistance while proposing alternatives and solutions.

For more information or to get involved in the caucuses for labour, women or people of colour, visit: www.PeoplesSocialForum.WordPress.com



OFL President Sid Ryan cheers and chants along with new President Jerry Dias, Ontario Region Director Katha Fortier and the leadership of Unifor at the head of Toronto's Labour Day Parade to celebrate the birth of a new union

PHOTO: JOEL DUFF

BIRTH OF UNIFOR SPARKS LABOUR'S RENEWAL

FOUNDING PRESIDENT JERRY DIAS LEADS TORONTO LABOUR DAY CELEBRATIONS

Across Ontario—and no doubt the entire country—Labour Day celebrations were led by a sea of red and white. Unifor, Canada's newest and largest private-sector union, delivered an enthusiastic throng of over 3,000 energized former members of Canadian Auto Workers union (CAW) and Communications, Energy and Paperworkers union (CEP) to lead the Toronto march. The massive display of labour unity and militancy was a fitting conclusion to the founding convention of the new union.

"Unifor is here because it's time to stop playing defense and start playing offense," Jerry Dias bellowed during his inaugural address as the new president of Unifor. "Society has betrayed the hopes and dreams of our young people. Young people are getting screwed and they're just not going to take it any more."

Dias' rousing speech was punctuated by several standing ovations, as he called for a

more aggressive approach to organizing and stronger ties to the community.

Outgoing top executives of CAW and CEP looked to the future in their parting words to the packed convention hall.

Unifor is here because it's time to stop playing defense and start playing offense - Jerry Dias

"Unifor isn't just a union, it's a social movement, it's a progressive union," former CAW President Ken Lewenza said to a thunderous applause.

That theme was woven through the words of all of the presidents, secretary-treasurers and directors of CEP and CAW, who spoke about the history they were making at the Metro Toronto

Convention Centre and the process that led to it.

Former CEP President Dave Coles said that hope will extend beyond Unifor to help those living in poverty across Canada.

"It is our responsibility in Unifor to remember that when they come for one of us, they come for all of us," Coles said.

All three OFL officers joined a contingent of "who's who" in the labour movement who attended the founding meeting. An impressive roster of guest speakers, including CLC President Ken Georgetti, acclaimed author Naomi Klein, This Hour Has 22 Minutes personality Marg Delahunty (aka Mary Walsh), pollster Allan Gregg and many others helped to mark the occasion. Visit Unifor's new website:

www.Unifor.org

[With files from Canadian Association of Labour Media reporter Nora Loreto.]



PHOTO: USW

Steelworkers hold strong during a 13-week lock-out at U.S. Steel's Fort Erie Works ... the second lock-out in three years

U.S. STEEL SETTLES IN NANTICOKE

Strong resolved and massive support helped Steelworkers Local 8782 end a 13-week lockout by U.S. Steel at the Lake Erie mill in Nanticoke, Ontario.

"The entire labour movement is proud of these workers who remained strong in the face of the second uncalled-for lockout at the mill in two years," said Marty

Warren, United Steelworkers District 6 Director.

Since buying the profitable operation in 2007, U.S. Steel has failed to live up to its promises to workers and the government of Canada. The Harper government continues to sit idly by as Canadian jobs are lost and lockouts become the order of the day.



PHOTO: CUPE ONTARIO

Bonfield municipal workers receive outpouring of support from allies in the labour movement and community

BONFIELD WORKERS STRIKE BACK

The 16 members of CUPE 4616-2 who work for the municipality of Bonfield in Northern Ontario have been on strike for a fair contract since August 1 against a mayor determined to push contract concessions, including plans to contract-out public services.

After the employer threatened to impose new terms and conditions,

the workers were forced into a defensive strike. However, the mayor appears resolute to oppose a fair contract, even if it means compromising important public services the community relies on.

OFL President Sid Ryan joined the picketers on September 12 and is working with CUPE Ontario to host a solidarity rally on October 5.



PHOTO: CAW

Striking Brampton Coca-Cola workers cry foul over attack on retirement security

WORKERS WIN PENSION FIGHT WITH COKE

Solidarity from the labour movement helped the Canadian Auto Workers win a significant pension victory for the 700 members of Local 973 who were on strike at the Coca-Cola bottling plant in Brampton. The month-long strike was settled in July after the company backed down from an attack on pensions and job security.

"The real fight here was over the defined benefit pension plan, with Coca-Cola pushing us to move to a defined contribution plan," said CAW's Jerry Dias. "Coca-Cola can certainly afford for employees to work and retire with dignity."

The new agreement also secured wage increases and blocked the outsourcing of existing work.



PHOTO: JOEL DUFF

The OFL and affiliates shore up picket lines wearing animal costumes to protest the beastly behaviour of Toronto Plaza Hotel

TORONTO PLAZA HOTEL BACKS DOWN

After a bitter 13-week dispute with Toronto Plaza Hotel, members of United Steelworkers Local 9466 finally ratified a new two-year agreement that removed all of the draconian concessions demanded by hotel management and even provided a wage increase. Also removed from the final settlement was management's insistence on

new language that would have gutted basic protections and rights of union workers.

Labour support flowed in to the workers after owner Rehan Chowdary sent a letter to the government referring to his largely female and mostly racialized workers as "animals." Over 3,000 letters called for a fair settlement.

CAMPAIGN AIMS TO PUT FATIGUE FATALITIES IN GOVERNMENT HEADLIGHTS

After years of working diligently to boost public awareness about the tragic issue of driver fatigue, Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 1624 has launched a campaign to call on the Federal Ministry of Transportation to legislate safer rules to regulate the hours of service of motor coach drivers.

The Canadian Council of Motor Transport Administrators reports that fatigue is the key factor in over 20 percent of vehicle collisions, resulting in over 300 deaths and 2,000 serious injuries every year. This makes fatigue the highest measurable cause of collisions, after driving drunk and driving aggressively.

Motor coach drivers are forced to work long hours with minimal compensation and very little time between shifts. As a result, a driver's reaction time is seriously compromised and

the opportunity for a fatal collision is increased exponentially. These serious concerns were highlighted by the Canadian Safety Council when it wrote that "Driving while fatigued is

necessary precautions to guard against fatigue.

In an attempt to reduce driver fatigue and increase public, driver and passenger safety on Canadian roadways, the Canadian government is being asked to pass legislation to:

- limit daily driving time to a 10 hour maximum;
- ensure that no driver is on duty for more than 14 hours per day;
- guarantee 10 hours of rest between shifts;
- equip all motor coach vehicles with electronic logging technology; and
- create a distinction between motor coach vehicles and trucks.



ATU Local 1624 is launching a nation-wide campaign against driver fatigue and calling on the labour movement for support

comparable to drunk driving, only there is not the same social stigma attached." However, unfortunately far too many Canadian coach drivers are not prevented from taking the

Watch the video on driver fatigue:

www.youtube.com/user/ATU1624

Sign the petition to put an end to this carnage on our roadways: <http://atu1624.ca/petition>

INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE HELPS U.K. UNION PUT A STOP TO "NO-HIRE" LISTS

On July 10, Executive Vice-President Irwin Nanda and OFL staff joined a delegation from the largest union in the United Kingdom, Unite the Union, in protesting outside of the 407 Express Toll Route offices in Vaughan over direct connections to human rights and global bribery scandals. Unite the Union representatives were hosted in Canada by the United Steelworkers as part of a world-wide solidarity initiative to put an end to the despicable practice of putting union activists on a "no-hire" list.

Unite the Union has been embroiled in a lengthy challenge against Bam Ferrovial Kier (BFK) for allegedly barring known union activists who raise health and safety concerns from getting work with the largest construction companies in the U.K. At the centre of the controversy was a

Unite the Union shop steward and professional electrician, Frank Morris, whose employer lost a construction contract with BFK because it refused to fire Morris. The practice put Morris

awarded the extension of the 407 Express Toll Route SNC Lavalin has its own unsavoury reputation, earned because of widespread allegations and charges of bribery, money laundering and fraud around the world.

In early September, the OFL received overseas word from Unite the Union that the dispute over BFK's "no-hire" list had been resolved and Morris had been reinstated to the Crossrail construction project. This settlement marks an important victory for workers' rights in the U.K. and around the world.

While "no-hire" lists are illegal in many countries, the practice is suspected to be widespread and has a chilling effect on freedom of speech and freedom of association.

For more information on "no-hire" lists, visit: <http://www.unitetheunion.org>



Labour supporters join U.K.'s Unite the Union and USW in protesting shameful practices of Bam Ferrovial Kier and SNC Lavalin

out of work for over 10 months and caused his employer to go bankrupt.

Ferrovial's Canadian connection rests in its partnership with SNC Lavalin that has been



OFL Secretary-Treasurer Nancy Hutchison joins PSAC LGBTQ activists at the Toronto Pride Parade

PHOTO: JOHN MACLENNAN

CELEBRATING STRENGTH IN DIVERSITY

Across the province, union activists joined in community celebrations of diversity, culture and human rights. From Pride parades and festivals in some of Ontario's most remote communities to Toronto's Caribbean Carnival, labour councils, unions and their locals proudly strutted their stuff in defiant resistance to oppression and in bold celebration of our identities and our solidarity.



Northern Ontario's Elliot Lake celebrated its first Pride festival under the theme of "Show Your Pride in Elliot Lake"



OFL Officer Irwin Nanda joined the CUPE Contingent in Toronto's Caribbean Carnival celebration. CUPE's elaborate costumes took first prize in Group B

PHOTO: CRAIG SAUNDERS

THE RAILWAY TIES THAT BIND



PHOTO: LYNN SIMMONS

SANDRA CLIFFORD

A “LINK & PIN” BETWEEN LABOUR AND THE NDP RETIRES

A 25 year veteran of the OFL—and an Ontario stalwart of the NDP—retired her cross-country campaigning for a jet-set life of another kind. Sandra Clifford’s job as OFL Director of Government Relations and Liaison to the President officially came to an end this summer after a transition year bridging to retirement and a new life as an international travel consultant and tour guide.

“It’s hard to imagine Sandra relaxing to enjoy life because anyone who knows her is used to her operating at full tilt. Sandra kept one foot firmly planted on each side of social democracy—labour and the NDP,” said OFL President Sid Ryan. “Progressive politics is in her blood and that will never change.”

Sandra’s rank-and-file labour roots go back to her days working as a steward on Ontario Northland Railway in the late 1970s, where she became a member of the Canadian Brotherhood of Railway Transport and General Workers (CBRT&GW) Local 37 in North Bay. As an outspoken and principled female member of a “brotherhood,” Sandra

understood early on that her life’s calling was to challenge her employer—and her union—to become more inclusive. However, Sandra always understood that achieving a more just, equitable and progressive Canada required activism on the streets and in the legislature.

Sandra kept one foot firmly planted on each side of social democracy - Sid Ryan

Sandra quickly earned a reputation as a formidable labour activist and was elected President of the North Bay and District Labour Council. In 1988, she joined the OFL team working as a regional coordinator for the Basic Education for Skills Training (BEST) and eventually became the administrator. She later worked as Education Director, Political Action Director and eventually became the OFL’s official link to the NDP.

Sandra’s passion for political action continued to grow throughout the years, and with it flourished her involvement in the NDP. She joined the party in 1982 and worked on election campaigns in Nipissing, Temiskaming, Simcoe East, Sarnia, and Manitoba before running for the Nipissing seat against Mike Harris in the 1987 provincial election.

Sandra climbed the ranks of the NDP and earned the support of the membership and leadership. She served as president of the Ontario NDP from 2004 to 2012 and became a principal cog in Jack Layton’s electoral machine. Sandra was drafted by Jack to be his Labour Co-ordinator and then his election Wagoneer for the federal campaigns in 2006, 2008 and 2011.

Sandra’s lasting legacy to both the labour movement and the NDP is the incredible work she did, despite her retirement, to bring the OFL statue of Jack Layton to the Toronto Waterfront. It is a strong indication that Sandra remains dedicated to Canadian politics.

2013 LABOUR POST-SECONDARY SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Since 1984, the OFL has been awarding post-secondary scholarships in the names of retired or deceased labour activists who have made a significant contribution to the life and growth of the trade union movement in Ontario.

The OFL's recognition is intended to inspire current and future generations of activists to dedicate themselves to the labour movement and social change.

This year, the OFL is proud to announce five new inductees into its Labour Honour Roll:

Sister Brenda Carrigan, OECTA

Sister Beverly McCloskey, CAW 222

Brother James Nugent, IAMAW

Brother Jack Ostroski Sr., USW 2251 (Deceased)

Brother Logan Sellathurai, CUPE Local One



ADAM KERR

Hailing from Mississauga, Adam is off to the University of Toronto's Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering.

His father, Robert Kerr is a member of the Halton Local of the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO).

The number of applicants for this year's scholarship broke recent records and made the selection process more difficult than usual. This increased interest is, no doubt, related to the shameful increases in tuition fees that have pushed Ontario into the dubious rank of first place in high tuition fees and student debt. The 79 essay submissions were reviewed by the OFL's Workers Under 30 Committee based on a blind evaluation process.

The OFL is proud to recognize Michelle Jones and Adam Kerr as this year's Labour Post-Secondary Scholarship winners.

However, the strength of the many other essays received is a testament to the strength of the next generation of union activists.



MICHELLE JONES

Michelle is an Oshawa student who is starting her first year in the Geography program at Trent University in Peterborough.

Michelle's mother, Lynne Jones, works for the Canada Food Inspection Agency and is a member of PSAC-AGR Local 14.

NEW AFFILIATIONS

Since June 2012, the OFL has grown by 15,925 dues paying members.

▶ CEP 52.04.....	10
▶ CEP 132-0.....	39
▶ CEP 219-0.....	67
▶ CEP 5011.02-ORABF.....	146
▶ CEP 5011.04-ORABF.....	20
▶ CEP 5011.06-ORABF.....	200
▶ CUPE 241.....	323
▶ CUPE 503.....	2,123
▶ CUPE 1133-02.....	98
▶ CUPE 1196.....	1,100
▶ CUPE 1334.....	231
▶ CUPE 1999.....	1,150
▶ CUPE 2225.....	238
▶ CUPE 2345.....	357
▶ CUPE 3313.....	280
▶ IAM 2922.....	176
▶ Unifor 414.....	3,000
▶ WORKERS UNITED CANADA COUNCIL/SEIU.....	5,767
▶ WUFA.....	600

The labour movement keeps getting stronger!

OFL HUMAN RIGHTS STATEMENTS

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

June 21:

National Aboriginal Day

September 2:

Labour Day



PHOTO: JOHN MACLENNAN

LABOUR RISES TOGETHER

OFL 12TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION SLATED FOR NOVEMBER 24-29

The OFL will be holding its 12th Biennial Convention in the Grand Ballroom at the Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel, 123 Queen Street West. The convention will commence with registration and pre-convention orientation on Sunday, November 24 and will officially begin at 9:30 am on Monday, November 25.

The theme of the convention is “Rising Together!”—a proud reflection on the past accomplishments of the labour movement in lifting all people up and an optimistic and confident declaration of labour’s commitment to pushing back against austerity and the neoliberal policies that are increasing inequality and threatening the rights and livelihoods of all workers in Canada.

International speakers will connect Canadian struggles to the global resistance against austerity while providing real alternatives that are emerging around the world.

DEADLINES:

Resolutions: October 23

Credentials: November 12

The convention paper will present an action plan for a united labour movement and a bold commitment to deep organizing within every one of our communities.

Convention credentials have been forwarded to the financial secretary of each affiliate. The deadline for receiving credentials is midnight

on November 12, 2013. The Credentials Committee will be unable to seat delegates if credentials are filed late.

Information on the labour council and equity caucuses will be sent directly to each delegate upon receipt of registration. Caucuses are for the purpose of electing representatives to the OFL Executive Board and they are open to self-identified members of the particular designated group who are convention delegates.

The deadline for receiving resolutions is October 23, 2013, and each resolution must be limited to 150 words or less.

For convention documents, registration forms and all the latest information, visit:

<http://OFL.ca/index.php/Convention-2013>

CLIFF PILKEY ACTIVIST AWARD AND DINNER

The OFL will host the first Cliff Pilkey Awards Dinner at the Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel on the evening of Thursday, November 28, in honour of the former OFL President. The special ticketed gala will officially launch a new award for Labour Activist of the Year.

Submit your nominations for the Cliff Pilkey Labour Activist of the Year, the Bob Borch Human Rights Award, the Olivia Chow Child Care Activist Award, and the Young Worker Award.

For information or to purchase tickets, contact: jchow@ofl.ca



UPCOMING EVENTS

SEP.: TAKE BACK THE NIGHT EVENTS

Throughout September, labour councils and community groups across Ontario will host “Take Back the Night” events to empower women and challenge gender-based violence.

SEP. 27: FORUM ON YOUTH UN(DER)EMPLOYMENT

Join students, young workers, community and labour organizers and other allies for a forum addressing youth unemployment and underemployment in Ontario.

The forum is free to all and will be held at the Oakham House, Ryerson University, in the Oakham Lounge (Second Floor) on Friday, September 27 from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm.

This event is being hosted by the OFL, Canadian Federation of Students–Ontario, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives–Ontario, Unifor, United Food and Commercial Workers, Canadian Labour Congress, and Workers United Canada.

For details or to RSVP, visit: <http://OFL.nationbuilder.com/YouthUnEmployment>

OCT. 5: CUPE 4616-2 SOLIDARITY RALLY IN BONFIELD, ONTARIO

Stay tuned to the OFL website for details on a solidarity rally for striking municipal workers in Bonfield, Ontario (near North Bay) on Oct. 5.

OCT. 14: MINIMUM WAGE ACTION

Get involved: www.RaiseTheMinimumWage.ca

OCT. 31-NOV. 2: CONFERENCE ON WORKERS’ COMPENSATION

Osgoode Hall and the OFL will co-host an international conference on workers’ compensation. Titled “No ‘Half Measures’: Workers’ Compensation 100 Years After Sir William Meredith,” the conference will take place in Toronto from Oct. 31 to Nov. 2, 2013.

For information, visit: www.Meredith100.ca

NOV. 14: MINIMUM WAGE ACTION

Get involved: www.RaiseTheMinimumWage.ca

NOV. 23: OFL WORKERS OF COLOUR ASSEMBLY

The OFL will be hosting a Workers of Colour Assembly immediately preceding the 2013 Convention. For more information, contact: Paulette Hazel at PHazel@ofl.ca

NOV. 23-24: OFL YOUNG WORKERS’ ASSEMBLY

The OFL will be hosting a Young Workers’ Assembly immediately preceding the 2013 Convention. For more information, contact Paulette Hazel at PHazel@ofl.ca

NOV. 24-29: OFL 12TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION

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

DEADLINE FOR RESOLUTIONS: October 23
DEADLINE FOR CREDENTIALS: November 12

For convention documents, registration forms and all the latest information, visit: <http://OFL.ca/index.php/Convention-2013>

NOV. 28: OFL CLIFF PILKEY AWARDS DINNER

Hosted during the OFL convention at the Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel, this is a separately ticketed event on the evening of Thursday, November 28. For information or to purchase tickets, contact: jchow@ofl.ca

DEC. 14: MINIMUM WAGE ACTION

Get involved: www.RaiseTheMinimumWage.ca

2014: PEOPLE’S SOCIAL FORUM

Slated to take place in Ottawa in late August or early September, 2014, the People’s Social Forum will build opposition to neoliberalism. The date and location will be announced soon.

For more information or to get involved, visit: <http://PeoplesSocialForum.wordpress.com>

LABOUR & HUMAN RIGHTS DATES

- Sep 21 International Day of Peace
- Oct Women’s History Month
- Oct 4 Sisters in Spirit Vigils
- Oct 10 World Mental Health Day
- Oct 17 International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
- Oct 30 Childcare and Early Childhood Educators Appreciation Day
- Nov 20 Transgender Day of Remembrance
- Nov 25 International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women
- Dec 1 World AIDS Day
- Dec 2 International Day for the Abolition of Slavery
- Dec 3 International Day of Persons with Disabilities
- Dec 6 National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women
- Dec 10 International Human Rights Day
- Dec 18 International Migrants Day
- Dec 20 International Human Solidarity Day



Fall Training Seminars
Embassy Suites, Niagara Falls, ON
September 29 - October 4, 2013

Compensation Essentials \$750
Appeals and Dispute Resolution \$900
Occupational Disease \$900

Register:
Website: www.odrt.ca
Telephone: 1-800-668-9138



early
bird
discount



Know your rights and how to use them

Register Today



**Celebrating Workers
Celebrating Families**



Celebrating Solidarity



Labour Day 2013



**ONTARIO
FEDERATION OF
LABOUR**

**together
FAIRNESS WORKS**

ALL PHOTOS: JOEL DUFF EXCEPT TOP RIGHT BY NANCY HUTCHISON