



P.10  
MINIMUM WAGE FIGHT



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END YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT



P.14  
IWD IN THE STREETS

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

## ONTARIO FEDERATION OF LABOUR

SPRING 2014



VOLUME 4, ISSUE 2



# #StopHudak







Raise the Minimum Wage NOW to \$14/hour. From Feb. 20 province-wide rally.

<b>10</b> MINIMUM WAGE	<b>14</b> MARCH 8 IWD	<b>16</b> HEALTH & SAFETY	<b>18</b> UPCOMING EVENTS
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# HUGE TURNOUTS FOR THE *STOP HUDAK* CAMPAIGN LAUNCH

LABOUR COUNCILS SHINE – ACTIVATING THOUSANDS SO FAR

*13 cities, thousands of workers and tens of thousands of Stop Hudak! materials out the door . . .*

We wrote about the *Stop Hudak* campaign launch in our last issue. Now, it's a reality. As this issue goes to print, Sarnia and Windsor meetings are ready to roll out, after which the campaign gears up for the next leg.

As it roars through the province propelling workers into action, it also brings clarity to

political events, addressing welcome questions from those who ask about Hudak's statement that he has changed his mind. The answer: No. Never. He just wants you to believe the threat is gone. His contempt for unions and determination to make us work for less is at the core of who he is. That won't change.



## HERE, IN A NUTSHELL, IS WHY TIM HUDAK HAS CHANGED HIS MESSAGING – NOT HIS INTENTIONS – JUST HIS MEDIA STATEMENTS.

1. Hudak's obsession with crushing unions was one of his prominent campaign issues in February's Niagara Falls by-election;
2. Voters (most of whom are working people) rejected it. They handed Tim Hudak and his Conservatives a crushing defeat and instead elected the NDP's Wayne Gates. For the first time in 19 years, the riding has gone orange. (A pretty strong message, eh?)
3. Fearful of more defeats, especially with the possibility of a provincial election, Hudak and his Conservatives change their messaging and tell the media that he has changed his mind.

"But it's a lie," warns OFL President Sid Ryan as he travels to meetings across the province. "For Hudak, gutting unions, driving down wages and imposing U.S. Right-to-Work-for-Less laws is a personal article of faith, a long-standing obsession."

OFL affiliates agree. And that is why many have made a priority of getting the word out to members in the workplace.

Concerned for the livelihood of its members if Hudak and the Conservatives get elected, the campaign team warn that "It doesn't matter if you are a high- or low-income worker, Hudak's ruinous policies and concept of what working people are entitled to is threatening to everyone."

In addition to CLC Ontario and OFL staff, the booked-off team members so far include:

- Richard Long, The Society of Energy Professionals
- Mike Shields, UNIFOR
- Al McMahon, CUPW
- Carol Baker, Sack, Goldblatt & Mitchell, LLP
- James Moffat, supported by Sheet Metal Workers and Roofers Local 30

## THE MOST IMPORTANT PIECE OF CAMPAIGN LITERATURE: THE 5-STEP GUIDE FOR ACTION



It comes with a warning: "We cannot wait until the provincial election is called. The time for action is NOW!"

The Hudak Conservatives

plan to use their attack on unions to **increase** their support among union members. We must make sure that Hudak loses votes among union members—including the votes of members who usually vote Conservative.

Keep current with the campaign at [www.rightsatwork.ca](http://www.rightsatwork.ca). All materials are there, including The 5 Step Guide and order form.

On to Sarnia and Windsor next in this battle for the hearts, minds and votes of union members. Together, we can defeat the Conservative attack and renew our unions in the process.

## 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 4, Issue 2 of the **OFL President's Report** was produced for the April 15, 2014 meeting of the Executive Board of the Ontario Federation of Labour.

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

Even if you are **sick** of politics, pay attention



to the provincial election!

The election could have a major impact on your collective agreement (the union contract). Your wages, benefits and your pension could suffer.

Why?

Because Tim Hudak's Conservatives are attacking unions. Hudak's U.S.-style policies are so extreme, members of his own party forced him to tone down his message.

Don't let Tim Hudak fool you. Even union members who usually vote Conservative are saying...





DURHAM



HAMILTON



LONDON

# #StopH

## REGIONAL ME



SUDBURY

# udak

## ETINGS PACKED



NIAGARA



PETERBOROUGH



TORONTO

Union members and allies are getting it and are responding. The message is out:

**“HUDAK AND THE CONSERVATIVES ARE A CLEAR AND PRESENT DANGER.”**

-Sid Ryan, OFL President

## TOYOTA CAMPAIGN LED BY WORKERS FROM THE START BY JERRY DIAS

The origins of the Toyota campaign differed from most other large scale organizing efforts.

It's a great story. The first cards were actually bulletins from Toyota's human resources department about the latest cut to benefits, on which industrious Toyota team members, as workers at Toyota are known, had photocopied a CAW membership card on the back.

There could be no clearer signal to us that Toyota team members were not happy, than to have them use the company's own bulletins to make union membership cards.

Looking back, it's easy to see why. The company was taking its cues from the Detroit Three, which were taking a hard line in its contract talks. Despite being very profitable and in much stronger financial shape, Toyota was using the turmoil in the auto industry as an excuse to make cuts at its own plants.

The team members soon realized a union was needed.



With team members calling regularly asking for help, and the homemade cards coming in, a couple of meetings were held at the CAW union hall in Woodstock to gauge interest, followed by leafleting outside the plants.

The response was overwhelming, and convinced us that an organizing drive at Toyota

could work. For many of us, it was a turning point.

Three things then kicked the campaign into high gear last September: Unifor was founded, giving the union unprecedented publicity and an updated image; I went to Kitchener to meet team members and offered them the new union's wholehearted support; and Unifor Local 88 signed a deal at CAMI that made contracts permanent – which is one of a few priority issues for Toyota workers.

We are now entering a new phase as we sign up new members to address the surprisingly long employee list filed by the company with the labour board, and so have temporarily withdrawn our certification application.

We are close, very close, and will soon be negotiating a historic first contract at Toyota.

**Jerry Dias is National President of Unifor, Canada's largest union in the private sector with more than 305,000 members, including more than 39,000 in the auto industry.**

## CARNIVAL CORPORATION BOYCOTT: OFL URGES AFFILIATES TO SIGN ON

Last month, the OFL officially joined the rapidly growing list of unions and organizations disgusted with owner Crown Holdings and its demonstrable contempt for its workforce.

It's an ugly story that started last September when Crown Holdings forced the 120 workers at the Weston plant, members of USW Local 9176, to take strike action. After doubling its profits in 2012 to more than \$200 million, the U.S.-based company is after a permanent 42 percent (\$9 per hour) pay cut for new hires at its Weston plant.

But it has made a big mistake. The Toronto workers refused to be intimidated and late last month voted 117 to 1 against the contract offer. The union is demanding the Ontario government step in to help resolve the dispute.

At issue is yet another corporate attempt to create an underclass of young workers. The two-tier agreement pushed by Crown will see new hires stuck without access to the same pay, benefits or working conditions as their co-workers doing the same job.

In Ontario, young workers already face a grim future. They are saddled with record-high tuition fees and levels of student debt,

unemployment rates that are more than double those of the general population, and high levels of underemployment. At the same time, austerity measures have gutted public services and social programs, such as Employment Insurance and Old Age Security, leaving young workers facing the spectre of a longer working life with less support for themselves and their families.

"Tackling a giant corporation like Crown is a difficult task for any one workplace," says OFL President Sid Ryan. "Not so, for the entire labour movement. Unions and organizations have their own national and global reach and that is what we are going to put in play now."

The Carnival Cruise boycott is expanding rapidly. Last month, the 500,000-member Congress of Union Retirees of Canada (CURC) announced its endorsement until the Crown dispute is resolved.

"We are sending a strong message with this boycott," said CURC President Pat Kerwin. "Carnival's CEO Arnold Donald knows that his business relies on decent wages, pensions and vacation time that allow workers and seniors to take cruises. Yet, in his role as Crown Holdings

director, he's supporting an attack on workers that would permanently slash wages for new workers and keep pensions low for existing workers who have been making sacrifices for years. We want Carnival's CEO to know Canadian union retirees won't be taking his cruises unless he acts to offer Crown workers a fair deal."

The OFL is calling on affiliates and allies to act now. For more information see [www.takebacksnomore.com](http://www.takebacksnomore.com).



# YOUNG WORKERS PROPOSE SOLUTIONS TO PROVINCE

**“FAR TOO MANY YOUNG PEOPLE CAN’T FIND WORK OR ARE WORKING IN LOW-WAGE JOBS THAT DON’T VALUE THEIR SKILLS,” SAID OFL VICE-PRESIDENT FOR YOUNG WORKERS DENISE MARTINS**



The meeting was hosted by the Ontario Federation of Labour, Ontario Common Front, Unifor, Workers United Canada Council, and the Canadian Federation of Students–Ontario. A full copy of the recommendations is available at <http://ofl.ca/index.php/publication/youthunemployment>



“Just to return to pre-recession employment levels, over 89,000 jobs still need to be created for youth in Ontario,” said Irwin Nanda, OFL Executive Vice-President. “That’s why we are here today demanding bold action to create good jobs and support accessible education and training for young people.”

The reality for youth in today’s job market is grim and growing worse. Just last year, Ontario’s youth unemployment was at 16 percent, more than double the general rate and well above the national youth unemployment rate of 13.7 percent. Making matters worse, those who are employed are too often working in low-wage, precarious jobs without job security or benefits.

The crisis and what to do about it was the central theme of a young workers meeting held Feb. 27 in Toronto. The Premier’s Council on Youth Opportunities attended the meeting to receive the recommendations prepared by young workers from community, student and labour groups.

The recommendations include proposals to link infrastructure spending to youth job creation; the expansion of the Youth Jobs Strategy to create more jobs with decent pay and opportunities for advancement; raise the minimum wage to \$14 an hour and eliminate the student minimum wage; reduce tuition by 30 percent over 3 years; eliminate exploitative unpaid internships; and implement a levy to ensure employers invest in apprenticeships and training.

A full copy of the recommendations is available at <http://ofl.ca/index.php/publication/youthunemployment>

## NEW AFFILIATIONS

Welcome Newest Members of the OFL

- ▶ CUPE 4207 ..... 200
- ▶ PSAC 00901 ..... 1,292
- ▶ PSAC UNE 70397 .... 89

*The labour movement keeps getting stronger!*

## REMINDER:

**DEADLINE APPROACHING 2014 OFL’S LABOUR HONOUR ROLL NOMINEES**



Once again, the OFL is inviting affiliates to nominate trade unionists – retired or deceased – in whose names the 2014 OFL Labour Post-Secondary Scholarships will be awarded. Please respond with suggested names and a short biography of each nominee for consideration no later than April 25, 2014. Two student scholarships in the amount of \$2,000 each will be awarded. Information about the 2014 scholarships and application forms will be mailed to all affiliates in the near future. For further information: [sstewart@ofl.ca](mailto:sstewart@ofl.ca).



# THE COMMON FRONT CONNECTING MORE THAN 90 LABOUR AND COMMUNITY GROUPS IN COLLECTIVE ACTION

## THE CAMPAIGN TO RAISE THE MINIMUM WAGE

**\$11/hour? The answer, Premier, is “No”.**

The fight for the \$14/hr. minimum wage continues to hold a prominent position in the media and across the province. While Premier Kathleen Wynne has taken steps to increase the wage by a 75¢ an hour, to \$11, full-time workers will continue to endure the endless cycle of poverty – living 16 percent below the poverty line.

That's why communities continue to amass growing support. And it is also why organizations, like the Campaign to Raise the Minimum Wage, Ontario Coalition against Poverty, Workers' Action Centre, Raise the Rates, church groups, unions and others are coalescing in support of the message calling on Wynne to “Raise the

Rates NOW,” and “Stop the War on the Poor.”

Coming up Monday, April 14, is a Provincial Day of Action. Don't stand on the sidelines. Two weeks after the last one, the Premier promised the 75¢ increase to the minimum wage, and indexation. The Campaign is calling on Common Front partners and the public to do the following:

- Text “14now” to 647-496-5602 to send a message directly to all three party leaders that Ontario families deserve fair wages!
- Demand that MPPs support Bill 165 which indexes the minimum wage to inflation.
- Show up for April 14.
- Stay connected: Go to [raisetheminimumwage.ca](http://raisetheminimumwage.ca)





Vibrant, creative and hard-hitting actions took place across the province Feb. 20, calling for \$14 minimum wage, and indexation. In Toronto, marchers took their demands into the Eaton Centre to spread the message to workers and the public.

## RAISE THE RATES NOW!

Under the rallying cry of “Our pots and pans are empty – bring yours!”, hundreds of marchers took to the streets last month to ramp up the pressure on Premier Wynne. Joined by busloads of activists from Sudbury, Kingston and Waterloo, the crowd made its way to the Ontario Liberal convention to demand that the government:

- Raise Ontario Works and the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) to restore the 55 percent loss in value since cuts made by Conservatives in 1995;
- Provide a \$14/hour minimum wage fully indexed to inflation;
- Fully restore the Special Diet and Community Start-Up benefits;
- Commit to not merging Ontario Works and the ODSP.

The event was organized by the Raise the Rates Coalition. CUPE Ontario was a key sponsor. Below, President Fred Hahn tells the media that lives are on the line and no more delays are acceptable. Carol Baker spoke on behalf of the Ontario Common Front at the rally that preceded the march.



## ORGANIZING IS THE HEART OF THE COMMON FRONT

Welcome to the newest Common Front chapter, “We Are Oshawa”, with a talent for the advancing crucial issues in creative and high-profile ways. The organization is focused on progressive issues such as the minimum wage, saving postal home delivery and the need for decent pensions for everyone.

[www.weareoshawa.org](http://www.weareoshawa.org).



### ABOUT THE COMMON FRONT. JOIN US!

We are a strong and vibrant coalition that knits together labour and progressive community organizations. Our actions and alliances underscore the labour movement’s commitment to campaigns to raise the minimum wage, protect community hospitals from cuts and privatization, raise social assistance levels, fight poverty and homelessness, expand CPP, abolish tuition fees, and provide an adequate and accessible public transit system. Start your own chapter or join us if you already have one. Reach us at [Ashelton@ofl.ca](mailto:Ashelton@ofl.ca) 416-805-1861 for more information.

★ Ontario Common Front ★

# South Asian Community Activism Awards 2014

Saturday, May 31

email: [PHazel@ofl.ca](mailto:PHazel@ofl.ca)

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH AT THE OFL

“Colour Me – The Film” event was co-sponsored by: Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU Ontario, Canada); Canadian Labour International Film Festival (CLIFF); Unifor Local 2025; Unifor; Urban Alliance on Race Relations (UARR); Asian Canadian Labour Alliance (ACLA); Ontario Council of Agencies Servicing Immigrants (OCASI); CUPE Local 4400; Toronto Education Workers; Canadian Office & Professional Employees (COPE) Local 550, and the OFL.

The OFL was one of the co-hosts of Black History Month's labour and community celebrations across the province. Toronto's event opened with the South African National Anthem sung by the Soweto Gospel Choir in tribute to Nelson Mandela.

The centerpiece of the occasion that drew 150 people was “Colour Me – The Film” that challenges viewers to reconsider the way they think about race.

Marie Clarke Walker, Executive Vice-President of the CLC and OFL President Sid Ryan delivered the introductions. OFL officers Nancy Hutchison and Irwin Nanda were in attendance as well for the full event.

Although slavery is long over, its legacy of systemic discrimination and economic exclusion continue to reverberate in contemporary society. Labour market studies confirm that Black Canadians continue to experience an earning gap of \$9,101 a year and an unemployment rate that is 73 percent higher than for Whites. As a result, racialized families continue to be two to four times as likely to live on incomes below the low income cut-off and, in some communities, one in two racialized children are living in poverty.

“The wage gains that many feel are long overdue are being jeopardized by government

**UAZA MEDIA**  
**Celebrate African History Month**  
Date: February 23, 2014  
Place: Ontario Federation of Labour  
15 Gervais Drive, Auditorium  
(Eglinton Ave. East at Don Mills Rd)  
Toronto  
Time: 2 pm to 4 pm  
Register at: <http://www.eventbrite.ca/#colour-me-tickets-10113223367>  
Colour Me challenges viewers to re-examine how we think about race through a film documentary on a ground breaking mentorship program for black teens in Brampton.  
[www.colourmethefilm.com](http://www.colourmethefilm.com)  
**COLOUR ME**  
a documentary  
CBTU UAW

ORIGINAL CONCEPT & FEATURING ANTHONY MCLEAN  
WITH SUMMER JEVAUN DEMAR JUSTINE AUBAIN DAVID  
LINE PRODUCER SUSAN MCGRAW DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY JOHN M. TRAN MUSIC COMPOSED BY JOHN WELSMAN  
FILM EDITED BY JAMES BLOKLAND EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS ATO SEKYI-OTU KENNICK SILVESTRE KURANKYE SEKH-OTU  
MARK LAWSON MARK SOLVEUR MONICA HALSEY KEVIN WILLIAMS RAY WILLIAMS  
WRITTEN, DIRECTED & PRODUCED BY SHERIEN BARSOUM

cuts to jobs and social programs. There is no question that austerity measures are hitting racialized people the hardest,” said OFL Executive Vice-President Irwin Nanda. “It is time for Ontario to put forward a People’s Agenda that expands opportunities, creates good jobs and reshapes the economy around equity and empowerment.”

## OFL ANNUAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEES’ RETREAT

Representatives from the OFL’s Aboriginal Circle, Human Rights Committee, Persons with a Disability Committee, Solidarity & Pride Committee, Workers of Colour Committee and Young Workers Committee met in Niagara Falls in February to plan 2014 priorities.

Members met to grapple with the many issues of systemic change necessary for equality in the public realm as well as within the labour movement. With a provincial election in the wind, discussion also focused on opportunities to influence and achieve change.

“One of the most important decisions we made was to work together in a more purposeful way and to end any silos that exist. We are going to solidify our efforts on all equity fronts to make a bigger and more meaningful impact,” said Pablo Godoy, OFL Vice-President representing Workers of Colour. A full report will be available in late April on [www.ofl.ca](http://www.ofl.ca)

# ORGANIZING THE FIGHT AGAINST THE RIGHT: THE PEOPLE'S SOCIAL FORUM

August 21 – 24, Ottawa

Resistance and the deep desire for change is fuelling the beginning of a massive upsurge. With four months still to go, the People's Social Forum already promises to be an unprecedented convergence of social movements. But more than that, it contains the real promise of success.

Plans have been in the works for more than two years spearheaded by Québec social movements, such as the trade union confederations (FTQ, CSN, CSQ), women's organizations (Fédération des femmes du Québec), housing (FRAPRU) and

students (ASSÉ). Indigenous communities that are seeking to broaden support for opposition to the Tar Sands and other mining projects that are destroying their ancestral lands have established a dynamic caucus with activists from Idle No More, the Indigenous Environmental Network and Québec Native Women.

For the past year, union and community activists from English Canada have taken up the call, planning and organizing for maximum participation. The OFL, Canadian Union of Public Employees, Public Service Alliance of Canada, Canadian Union of Postal Workers, UNIFOR and

other labour federations are set to be part of a union caucus that includes representatives from the Québec trade union confederations.

The Ontario Common Front, now with more than 90 community, union and anti-racism groups kicked off its efforts last August at its General Assembly. More than 250 activists gathered to lay plans to "build the tent" to tackle austerity and create a different future.

Time is of the essence. Affiliates, allies and partners are urged to join in and become an active part of a new resistance. For more information [www.peoplesocialforum.org](http://www.peoplesocialforum.org)



## OCCUPATIONAL DISABILITY RESPONSE TEAM Workers' compensation funding renewed for training program

The OFL received welcome news from the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board with confirmation of \$1.2 million dollars of funding for its Occupational Disability Response Team. This funding includes \$800,000 for workplace insurance training and \$400,000 for a work reintegration project. The OFL contracted Nancy Clark, a worker's compensation advocate and educator, and Robert Halpin, a communications consultant specializing in change management to assist with development and delivery of services.

The OFL-ODRT staff have scheduled a 2-day planning session for April 9 and 10 to finalize work activity plans and develop a comprehensive marketing strategy for the work re-integration project. Robert Peace of MediaFuel, will attend the session to discuss the use of web, video and social media in promoting services. Robert has worked on several other OFL campaigns in recent years.



# MARCH 8 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



## ENERGY, POWER AND A CALL TO ACTION!

What a day. In evidence was a renewed spirit of fightback. The Steelworker Hall was full for the traditional Mary Spratt Breakfast and charged with energy from the take-no-prisoners speakers. OFL Executive Vice-President Nancy Hutchison set the tone with a call for determined and focused effort to achieve real equality.

The centerpiece of IWD is the march, and this year's boisterous and spirited 3,500+ event was led by to the *Campaign to Raise the Minimum Wage*. Over 57 percent of minimum wage workers are women, and 35 percent are racialized workers. Hundreds of marchers drove home the urgent need for the \$14 minimum wage. Without it, the gender pay gap will grow.

Front and centre were key demands, each one of them essential to achieving real equality: Childcare, action on murdered and missing Aboriginal women, Equal Pay, an end to violence against women, funding for women's services and more. Watch the news. Women's issues are on the move and so are the thousands of Sisters who are determined to achieve equality.



The OFL Women's Committee makes final plans for the next phase of the campaign. Equal Pay was also a major theme on March 8<sup>th</sup>. Coming up April 16 is Equal Pay Day in Ontario.

# INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



L-R: Well-known Sisters Judy Rebeck, Olivia Chow, Nancy Hutchison, Rathika Sitsabaiesan, Peggy Nash at IWD Mary Spratt Breakfast.



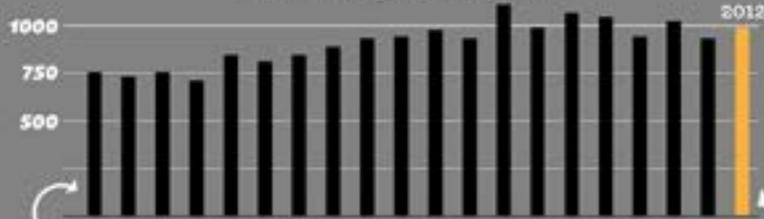
The OFL Women's Committee pins and posters were flying out the door this year. More than 15,000 were sold and prominent during the day's events.

NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING  
JOUR NATIONAL DE DEUIL

APRIL 28<sup>TH</sup>

Is today  
THE DAY YOU  
DIE AT WORK?

Deaths caused by workplace incidents  
over the past 20 years



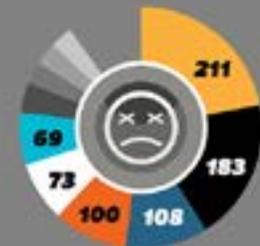
In 1993, there were **756** work-related deaths.

Twenty years later, the number of Canadians killed because of something that happened to them at work was **977**.

+221

That's a **29%** increase!

Deadliest Jobs in 2012  
Fatalities by industry



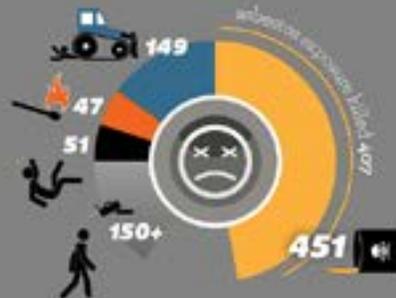
- 1 CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRIES: 211  
= 21.6% of recognized fatalities.
- 2 MANUFACTURING: 183  
= 18.7% of recognized fatalities.
- 3 GOVERNMENT SERVICES: 108  
= 11.1% of recognized fatalities.
- 4 TRANSPORTATION & STORAGE: 100  
= 10.3% of recognized fatalities.
- 5 INDUSTRY (UNSPECIFIED): 73  
= 7.5% of recognized fatalities.
- 6 MINING, QUARRYING & OIL WELLS: 69  
= 7.1% of recognized fatalities.
- 7 RETAIL TRADE: 36  
= 3.7% of recognized fatalities.
- 8 BUSINESS SERVICES: 30  
= 3.1% of recognized fatalities.
- 9 AGRICULTURE (AND RELATED SERVICES): 25  
= 2.6% of recognized fatalities.
- 10 OTHER SERVICES: 24  
= 2.5% of recognized fatalities.

Provincial  
& Territorial  
work-related deaths



\* Saskatchewan and Yukon had the highest work-related death rate, per-capita, in 2012.

Leading causes of  
work-related deaths: 2012



- Exposure to harmful substances or environments: 451 - 46.2%
- Vehicular/transportation: 149 - 15.3%
- Contact with objects or equipment: the exact number is hard to determine
- Falls: 51 - 5.2%
- Fire or explosion: 47 - 4.8%

\* includes homicides, traffic, drug deaths, police, public, criminals, suicide, train, logging, mining, powergen, aviation and fire (see statistics Canada, trends in occupational health and safety).

\*\* includes falling the ground, exposure of death, from walking, or not aware.

Source: Association of Workers' Compensation Boards of Canada, [www.wcb.org](http://www.wcb.org)

This graphic does not include deaths and injuries related to jobs, workplaces or employment arrangements not covered or not accepted as "official" by Canada's federal, provincial and territorial Workers' Compensation Boards.

NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING  
JOUR NATIONAL DE DEUIL

Canadian Labour Congress  
Congrès du Travail du Canada

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

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

*Mourn For The Dead . . .*

The labour movement's most solemn day is just around the corner. Ontario Labour Councils and OFL affiliates will honour those that died at work, or from work, and those whose lives have been turned upside down by work-related injuries and illnesses.

To some extent, the 2012 statistics on the opposite page tell a story. But numbers cannot begin to describe the reality created for families and loved ones left behind; nor can a number speak about what it's like living without an eye or a hand. For others, the simple acts of breathing or moving are fraught with difficulty as a result of needless exposure to dangerous chemicals and processes. If a number really could tell its story, governments and careless employers would face nothing less than an open rebellion. That's because we each would see ourselves in the tragedies they convey. It could be any one of us, anyone who goes to work for a living, our child, mother, father, friend.



Day of

# Mourning

APRIL 28

Reflect

Remember

Resolve

Prevent

CCOHS.ca  
Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety

1-800-668-4284

*Word cloud terms: you, them, everyone, friends, family, colleagues, sisters, live, love, respect, importance, value, fathers, life, mothers, workers, lives, lost, help, future, hazards, question, refuse, vulnerable, tragedy, incident, wellness, danger, safety, employees, rights, young, precautions, improve, care, guidance, responsibility, manage, change, control, leadership, education, diligence, training, ownership, assessment, involvement, health, accident, solutions, act, injury, suffering, illness, aging, analysis, loss, help, disability, disease, pain, disorder, death.*

*... And fight for the living*

The provincial government's refusal to halt the relentless attack on injured workers, of all people, is morally repugnant. It is a threat to all of us who go to work and has the very real possibility of driving death, injury and illness numbers higher.

The Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) wants to push through a series of policies that, if passed, will ensure that fewer injured workers will be entitled to compensation, and those who are entitled will get less. The attempt to expand the concept and consequences of "pre-existing injury" and use it to punish us by cutting compensation is just wrong.

To make matters even worse, the cost that should be paid by employers won't be; instead, it will be downloaded onto working people by pushing more injured workers onto social assistance. Financial penalties serve as critical leverage against rash and careless employers. Lessening or removing them will make our workplaces less safe.

"If the WSIB proceeds to implement the revised policies, I can assure you that the OFL and affiliates will oppose them by every means available to us, including legal challenges" said OFL President Sid Ryan in his letter to Elizabeth Witmer, Chair of the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board.

Four lawyers, experts in Workers' Compensation law, wrote a hard-hitting letter to Premier Wynne calling on her to ensure the draft policies are abandoned. This letter and others are available on the Ontario Network of Injured Workers' Groups' website ([www.injuredworkersonline.org](http://www.injuredworkersonline.org)) as well as calls to action.

Let's respond to those calls and make sure the WSIB's newest proposals are never adopted.

As we gather for April 28 ceremonies this year to mourn our dead and pay respects to those injured, we will remember to fight for the living.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

# UPCOMING EVENTS

### APR. 16: STOP HUDAK CAMPAIGN SARNIA

7:00 pm to 9:00 pm Unifor 914 Union Hall, 900 Devine St. (at Indian Rd. S.)

### APR. 25: OFL'S LABOUR HONOUR ROLL NOMINEES

The deadline for nominations for this year is April 25. For more information, please contact: Sylvia Stewart at 416-443-7677 or [ssewart@ofl.ca](mailto:ssewart@ofl.ca)

### APR. 28: NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING

To find out about events in your area, go to [www.whsc.on.ca](http://www.whsc.on.ca)

### MAY 5-9: CLC CONVENTION

The 27<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Convention of the Canadian Labour Congress will be held from Monday, May 5 to Friday, May 9 at the Palais des Congrès de Montréal, 201 avenue Viger Ouest, Montréal (Québec). Resolutions deadline: February 4, 2014 Credentials deadline: April 4, 2014 [www.canadianlabour.ca/convention/convention-2014](http://www.canadianlabour.ca/convention/convention-2014)

### MAY 13: STOP HUDAK CAMPAIGN WINDSOR

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm Caboto Club, Caboto Hall, 2175 Parent Avenue

### MAY 31: SOUTH ASIAN COMMUNITY ACTIVISM AWARDS

The Ontario Common Front is inviting community and labour allies to recognize community activists at the Sagan Banquet Hall (7180 Edwards Blvd, Mississauga, Ontario). For information or tickets, contact Paulette Hazel at 416-443-7667 or [PHazel@ofl.ca](mailto:PHazel@ofl.ca)

### JUN. 6-8: OFL ABORIGINAL EDUCATIONAL GATHERING

The OFL will be hosting a Aboriginal Gathering in the OFL Auditorium (15 Gervais Dr, Toronto) from June 6-8. For information, contact Janice Gairey at 416-347-9732 or [JGairey@ofl.ca](mailto:JGairey@ofl.ca)

### JUN. 20-29: WORLDPRIDE 2014

From June 20 to 29, Toronto will have the honour of hosting WorldPride 2014 (WP14TO). These ten days of Queer celebration will turn streets into parades, parks into parties and strangers into friends. For information visit: [www.WorldPrideToronto.com](http://www.WorldPrideToronto.com)

### AUG. 21-24: PEOPLE'S SOCIAL FORUM IN OTTAWA

The grassroots People's Social Forum will be held in Ottawa-Gatineau from August 21-24, 2014. For information, visit: <http://PeoplesSocialForum.wordpress.com>

## SOCIAL MEDIA CORNER

### E-NEWSLETTER

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

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 **SidRyan\_OFL**

## LABOUR & HUMAN RIGHTS DATES

April 16	Ontario Equal Pay Day
Apr 23	Anniversary of the CLC (1956)
Apr 28	Day of Mourning for Workers Killed or Injured on the Job
May	Asian Heritage Month
May 1	May Day
May 3	World Press Freedom Day
May 17	International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia
Jun 1-7	Sexual Harassment Awareness Week
Jun 1	Injured Workers' Day
Jun 5	World Environment Day
Jun 8	World Oceans Day
Jun 12	World Day Against Child Labour
July 18	Nelson Mandela International Day
Jun 21	National Aboriginal Day
Jun 20-29	World Pride 2014
August 9	International Day of World's Indigenous Peoples

**Thank You Photographers!**  
Hundreds of photos have flooded  
in over the past month.

If we have missed  
crediting you,  
please email  
[communications@ofl.ca](mailto:communications@ofl.ca).

**Réjean Amyotte  
Paul Brown  
Federico Carvajal  
Joel Duff  
Brynne Sinclair-Waters  
Stewart Wise  
Sudbury and District Labour Council**

**THUNDER BAY**



**KITCHENER, WATERLOO, GUELPH**



**KINGSTON**



**NORTH BAY**



**PEEL REGION**



**OTTAWA**



PEOPLES SOCIAL FORUM  
FORUM SOCIAL DES PEUPLES



**UN AUTRE  
MONDE**

**EST POSSIBLE ET NÉCESSAIRE!**

OTTAWA  
21-24 août  
2014

