

Toronto and York Region Labour Council – CUPE 3903 Delegate Report

August 4, 2016

Delegate present: Brian Mossop

Report: BM

Note to readers: What do you think CUPE 3903 should be getting out of representation at the Labour Council? Are there labour issues we should take to Council? Should we bring Council campaigns to York campuses? Write to me at brmossop@yorku.ca.

To find out about Council, and see photos of recent meetings and actions, visit

www.labourcouncil.ca. For a calendar of Council events:

<http://www.labourcouncil.ca/calendar--145thanniversary.html>. For current Council campaigns: <http://www.labourcouncil.ca/campaigns.html>.

- Around 75 delegates attended the August 4 meeting of the Labour Council.
- Three videos were shown: one of workers celebrating recognition of UnitHere (Local 75) as their bargaining agent (<http://rabble.ca/news/2016/07/renaissance-hotel-workers-inspired-fight-right-to-unionize>); footage of the October 1996 Days of Action (province-wide general strike) against the Mike Harris government, featuring singing by Bruce Cockburn and Billy Bragg (<http://207.112.105.217/PEN/1996-12-01/buckthou.html>); and a statement by an Iraq war resister facing deportation who has been in sanctuary in a United Church in Vancouver for 7 years (www.resisters.ca). Delegates were encouraged to have members of their locals fill out the Ontario Federation of Labour's Survey on Precarious Work. This can be done online or via download at http://www.makeitfair.ca/precarious_work_survey. The deadline is October 1. This is part of the OFL's campaign to get pro-labour changes to Ontario labour law to undo the anti-labour changes made by Mike Harris back in the 1990s. For more about the campaign: <http://ofl.ca/index.php/campaigns/makeitfair/>. The Ontario Government has just released its Changing Workplaces Review report (<https://www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/about/workplace/>) and will be considering what if any amendments to make to Ontario labour law.
- There were announcements of rallies: to protest the closing of Job Action Centres by the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development (August 29, noon, 900 Bay@Wellesley); to call on the Prime Minister to tell Canada Post to start serious bargaining with the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (August 9, 10:30am, Bill Morneau MP Constituency office at 430 Parliament Street).
- Council passed an Executive Board statement on “war and consequences”, which calls on affiliates and allies to combat the growing racism, xenophobia and Islamophobia within our society; deepen solidarity with newcomer communities and migrant workers; speak out against militarism and war; and urge the Trudeau government to stop deportation of U.S. war resisters.