

Toronto and York Region Labour Council – CUPE 3903 Delegate Report

November 3, 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 200 delegates attended the November 3 meeting of the Labour Council.
- A speaker from Legal Aid Ontario described their 4-year fight for certification, which has now been achieved.
- There was a speaker from the campaign to stop privatization of Toronto Hydro.
- Council passed a statement on funding of special needs education. Under the guise of cross-province equity, the Ministry of Education is diverting funds from schools in Toronto and York Region (attended by 25% of all Ontario students) to schools falling under other boards.
http://www.labourcouncil.ca/uploads/8/8/6/1/8861416/special_education_funding_-_nov2016.pdf
- There was discussion of Labour Council's 4-point strategic plan for 2016-2019. In brief: (i) fight for good jobs, in particular for the next generation; (ii) forge solidarity across unions and communities when tackling economic inequality and discrimination; (iii) tackle climate change; (iv) transform politics in Toronto and York Region by strengthening the campaigning ability of labour and working to elect many more diverse, progressive candidates to city councils and school boards. There was debate about (iii), given the different views in various unions of what constitutes a "just transition" to a sustainable economy, and also about (iv), given the tendency of Council-supported candidates to abandon labour once elected.
http://www.labourcouncil.ca/uploads/8/8/6/1/8861416/labour_council_stratplan_2016_to2019_-_nov2016.pdf
- A Greenprint for Toronto has been published as part of labour's contribution to tackling climate change.
- There was a presentation on the Canadian Labour International Film Festival
<http://labourfilms.ca>.
- There was a draw to support Idle No More and the Standing Rock protesters.