

## Toronto and York Region Labour Council – CUPE 3903 Delegate Report

December 1, 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](mailto:brmossop@yorku.ca).*

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

*[www.labourcouncil.ca](http://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 December 1 meeting of the Labour Council.
- There was a delegation from Butterfly (Asian and Migrant Sex Workers Support Network), and Council passed a motion supporting them and gave them \$250 collected from delegates present. There will be a fuller discussion of organized labour's relationship to sex workers at the January meeting of Council.
- There was a presentation and discussion on labour's response to the Trump presidency. The speaker mentioned that an important question is the direction Canada's Conservatives will take. Some unions are planning demonstrations across Canada on his inauguration day, January 20, with a focus on Canadian issues.
- Council passed a resolution on Toronto municipal finances that called for: balancing the ratio of commercial and residential property tax rates; a small tax on alcohol sold in outlets and stores; a hotel and short-term rental tax; a modest residential rate increase; a commercial parking tax levy paid for by landowners, with exemptions for small businesses and charitable organizations.
- Council approved Neethan Shan as the labour-endorsed candidate in the by-election slated for February 13 to fill the city council vacancy for Ward 42 (in Scarborough). Some dissatisfaction was expressed that Council had previously endorsed Shan for Board of Education (which he won) and then for a provincial by-election (which he lost). The President of the Council said that a big consideration when the municipal committee recommended endorsing him was name recognition, an important factor in a mid-winter by-election. Also, Shan promised that, if elected, he would not attempt to run provincially or federally during his term of office.