

Toronto and York Region Labour Council – CUPE 3903 Delegate Report

September 5, 2019

Delegates present: Ed Wong, 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 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: <https://www.labourcouncil.ca/events>.

For current Council campaigns: https://www.labourcouncil.ca/campaigns_and_programs

- There was a speaker on climate action. As part of the Global Climate Strike Sep 20-27 (globalclimatestrike.net), there will be a rally at Queen's Park Friday Sep 27 from 11 to 1, followed by a march down University Avenue to City Hall. For more: labourcouncil.ca/climate.
- Two teachers spoke about the impact on them of Ford's education cuts. There will be a tailgate party for education in King-Vaughan on September 14 starting at 1pm at the corner of Major Mackenzie Drive and Jane Street in Maple.
- A graduate of the Labour Community Advocate Program spoke about the program and the need to assist refugees.
- Delegates arriving at the meeting were seated at a table for discussion of one of 6 topics. Ed sat the Equity and Diversity table, Brian at the Climate Action table. Each table discussed how the Council's strategic plan for that topic could be implemented at the union local level. The Equity and Diversity table highlighted the need for unions to work with community organizations and to focus on the precarious employment sectors, where marginalized communities are disproportionately concentrated. The Climate Action table highlighted both the personal level (persuading colleagues to work at home, handle documents online instead of printing them out and getting out of their cars, though the latter is hard given the poor state of the TTC) and the union level (action by locals requires either an Executive member charged with leading on the climate file, or else a committee chair providing leadership). It was also mentioned that recent immigrants (at York: international students) could be invited to describe the climate situation in their countries of origin.