

Toronto and York Region Labour Council – CUPE 3903 Delegate Report

August 3, 2017

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>.

- York history prof (and former YUFA delegate to Labour Council) Craig Heron was presented with an award in recognition of the leading role he has taken in the Toronto Workers' History Project (twhp.ca) and his decades of effort researching and writing about labour history.
- There was a book launch for *Unions and the City: negotiating urban change* (<http://www.cornellpress.cornell.edu/book/?GCOI=80140100872890>). The book contains articles on labour in New York City and Toronto, including one by York geography prof Steven Tufts.
- A delegate from the Canadian Union of Postal Workers gave a presentation on Albert Jackson, who became Toronto's first black postman in 1882. Heritage Toronto has erected a memorial plaque (at 26 Lombard Street), and there is a play and a book about him. CUPW is campaigning for a stamp.
<https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2017/07/21/new-plaque-celebrates-albert-jackson-torontos-first-black-postman.html>
- There was a report on the CUPE recruiting drive among cabin crew members at WestJet (westjet.cupe.ca).
- There was a report on the ongoing efforts regarding Bill 148, the Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act, which will amend Ontario's Employment Standards Act and Labour Relations Act. The Bill is now being examined clause-by-clause by a committee of the Legislature which is holding hearings across the province. Labour Council's approach is to "win and improve" the government's proposed amendments, but there is strong opposition (surprise, surprise!) from employers.