

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

June 2, 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>.*

- Around 125 delegates attended the June 2 meeting of the Labour Council.
- A delegate who is Mohawk (from the Six Nations of the Grand River First Nation) spoke about the small number of Aboriginal union members. She said that the conditions under which Aboriginal people have lived for many generations, including poor schooling, have made it difficult for them to get hired in jobs that would lead to union membership. She said unions should press employers to hire more Aboriginal workers. She also mentioned that the statement read at the beginning of Labour Council meetings (similar to the one read at CUPE 3903 meetings) is inaccurate in that Toronto is situated on the traditional lands not only of the Anishnaabe (Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation) but also of the Haudenosaunee (known in English as the Six Nations of the Iroquois Confederacy, one of which is the Mohawks). <http://www.haudenosauneeconfederacy.com>
- **An OPSEU delegate announced that they have asked the Ontario Labour Relations Board to schedule a vote in June that would allow 17,000 part-time workers at 24 community colleges around the province to be represented by OPSEU.** They are calling it the biggest organizing drive in Canadian history and a major step forward in the battle against precarious work. <https://opseu.org/news/opseu-looks-june-representation-vote-part-time-college-support-staff>
- There was an announcement of the next World Social Forum, which will take place in Montreal on 9-14 August 2016 ([fsm2016.org](http://fsm2016.org)).
- A video was shown on the need to enrich Canada Pension Plan payouts. It showed a retiree being given the proverbial watch on his last day at work, after which he stands in front of a pawn shop, eventually deciding he has to pawn the watch. <http://www.canadianlabour.ca/action-center/retirement-security-for-everyone>
- Council endorsed Erica Shiner for the upcoming by-election to replace the late Howard Kaplan on the Toronto District School Board. [https://www.thestar.com/news/city\\_hall/2016/05/09/member-of-shiner-political-family-joins-tdsb-race.html](https://www.thestar.com/news/city_hall/2016/05/09/member-of-shiner-political-family-joins-tdsb-race.html)