Toronto and York Region Labour Council – CUPE 3903 Delegate Report
September 3, 2015

Delegate present: Brian Mossop
Report: BM

- Around 200 delegates attended the September 3 meeting of the Labour Council.
- The new national president of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers talked about their campaign, during the federal election, against mailboxes to replace door-to-door delivery. They think the Harper government's ultimate goal is privatization of Canada Post.
- NDP federal candidate Olivia Chow talked about the party's platform and the urgent need to replace the Harper government.
- A speaker from This Changes Everything talked about the LEAP Manifesto, a project on climate change that will launch in September. It comes out of Naomi Klein's book of that title and the documentary that will premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival this month. The meeting endorsed the Manifesto. A delegate from CUPE 3902 (UofT) asked about matters not mentioned in the Manifesto, like closing down the oil sands; the answer was that the Manifesto is simply a baseline on which people can expand.
  http://theleap.thischangeseverything.org, contact: bianca@thischangeseverything.org
- Several unions reported on their election activities. Many are being explicit about the need for an NDP (rather than a Liberal) government to replace the Conservatives, where in the past they have simply endorsed "change" without mentioning the NDP. OPSEU is reaching out to their young members through a tongue-in-cheek #DONTVOTE campaign (http://opseu.org/dontvote).
- Rathika Sitsabaiesan, the NDP MP for Scarborough-Rouge River, spoke about the Syrian refugee situation and the poor response of the Harper government. Member unions were encouraged to sponsor refugees.
- There was a presentation on the Canadian Freelance Union http://canadianfreelanceunion.ca/index.php/site/home. It's for self-employed communications workers, anyone who works as a contractor in tv, web, radio or print.