

Toronto and York Region Labour Council
General Membership meeting
Thurs, Sept 7, 2017

1. Minutes of previous meeting passed
2. Credential Report
3. Strike Report
4. Executive Board Report
 - a. Speaker – Press Progress vs. Rebel Media
 - i. Speaks to keeping an eye on conservative movements – reports and stories with no fact checking, verbatim stenography from people of power and institutions of power
 - ii. Rebel Media - launched by Ezra Levant, cofounder Brian Lilly (now has quit)
 - iii. Speaking generally: the aesthetic of it is that it is a grassroots funding publication. But, it has big money donors. Keep this in mind.
 - b. Statement – “Charlottesville and Hate”
 - i. See attached documents for full statement
 - ii. Five people spoke in favor of the statement to strongly condemn the white supremacist rally in Charlottesville, North Carolina.
 - c. Ace Bakery Workers and Bill 148
 - i. Victory report:
 1. Five members came the front and the room granted a round of applause
 2. Strike 10 years in the making. 1st try: didn’t go well; ended with no gains
 3. Strike was 2 months long: now ended with gains
 - a. 180 full time workers
 - b. Over 300 agency workers
 - d. Statement – Tax Fairness Matters
 - i. See attached documents for full statement
 - ii. CUPE 79 president McGuire spoke in favor of the statement. Urged engagement in the Morneau consultations. Urged resistance to Ontario provincial government of keeping taxes artificially low as well as selling off Ontario Hydro.
 - iii. OPSEU executive board member spoke in favor of the statement. Urged the support of the public services as the best solution to the issues of working people. Urged the resistance against the privatization of Hydro One. OPSEU is running a campaign: “Public Equals Better.” Search web for more.
 - iv. Third person spoke in favor of the statement. Spoke to everyone to urge support for public services in answer to pro-business, pro-privatization financial policies to be advocated by MP Bill Morneau

- e. Correspondence
- f. OFL Convention Call
 - i. Delegate sent to an outside labour conference, paying for travel, food, and such.
 - ii. President Sara Babbitt is delegate automatically, voted also in favor to cover travel and food.
- g. Election of Tyler
 - i. Mike nominated delegate, a guy well known here, on a first name basis
 - ii. Mike accepted nomination
- 5. Draw results, supporting Press Progress.
 - a. Winner awarded prize
- 6. Canadian Labour Congress, Labour Council Projects and Committees
 - a. On Labour Day, CLC announced the campaign for a national pharmacare plan. No one should have to choose between paying for groceries and paying for medication. Many people are cutting or skipping doses to make ends meet. Provinces and Territories have separate plans, but there is much support lacking, with 4 out of 5 people having to supplant medicine costs out-of-pocket. Pharmacare plan would save millions to billions of dollars a year, if the national government would be in charge of the pricing, distribution, and associated labour/bureaucracy. In New Zealand, public office negotiates planned prices, with \$18 a year for cholesterol medications; which costs hundreds of dollars in Canada, the profits going to private corporations.
- 7. Reports from Unions
 - a. On September 18, a United Way campaign will kick off at the Sony Centre for the Arts. Keep up to date with United Way for coming information. Donations came from people in the room; the speaker gave thanks to the donations that came.
 - b. Strike mandate given to TCHC (Toronto City Housing). Stay tuned for updates; this will come to a head in the next couple of months.
 - c. CUPE at U of T speaker rose:
 - i. 800 full time members and 300 part time members.
 - ii. Speaking to campus coalition for a "Vision 2020" to make U of T one of the best place to work in Canada, if the university is willing to bargain in good faith with its workers. Almost (if not) all workers from all parts of the University will be negotiating new contracts in the next 3 years.
 - iii. U of T says everyone should be happy no one is losing work. But, they are so profitable. This excuse is not enough.
 - d. OPSEU executive board member Julius Arscott speaks to the event "Hands of Venezuela." See attached document for the event sheet. The principle to fight for: internal democratic means of self-determination for all peoples.

- e. Speaker for November 10 panel on migrant labor. See attached documents for info.
- f. Employment agency worker: there will be a coming strike for agency workers. Demands: change and recognize that workers need mental health days, and were asked to reschedule for such days. Demand: bereavement, the right to decide who is important enough to mourn who one thinks is appropriate. Demand: no more reduction of job benefits, no more refusal for a pay raise. Picketing starts in the near future at 39 College Street (at Bathurst), and the management wants to bring in new workers.
- g. Steelworkers 8300 member spoke to the death of Mike Seaward, a patriot for workers advocacy.
- h. U of T member spoke to the "Fight for 15 and fairness" campaign. Event details are on event sheet; urges people to come out and support. See attached documents for info.
- i. United Way speaker: urged community action on Sunday Oct 15, 12:00 noon to 3pm, for a rally to end white supremacy in Toronto. To get involved, attend a United Way meeting. Search online for details.
- j. UNITE HERE Local 75 Speaker for Renaissance hotel: we are non-unionized and we want to be. There was a campaign for unionization once, but a nasty campaign by management stopped it. There will be bargaining for unionization in the near future; stay tuned for details.
- k. OPSEU 571 member: Cabbagetown festival: 11am-8pm Saturday, noon to 5pm on Sunday. Urges public pressure on Bill Morneau, (it's his riding) to support public services.

Adjournment passed