

**TORONTO & YORK REGION LABOUR COUNCIL  
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2017**

**AGENDA**

1. Roll call of officers
2. Harassment statement
3. Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands of Mississaugas of the New Credit
4. Minutes from previous meeting
5. Credential report
6. Moment of Silence for Kevin Cameron, LiUNA Local 506  
Reminder of Day of Mourning - April 28th
7. Strike report
8. Executive Board Report
  - a) Video: Breaking Barriers/Hate Today
  - b) Statement: Step Up and Speak Out
  - c) April 29 Rally Endorsement
  - d) Correspondence
9. Make it Fair Campaign
10. Reports of CLC and Labour Council Projects
11. Draw – April 29<sup>th</sup> Climate Justice Rally
12. Reports of Committees
13. Reports from Unions
14. Adjournment

# REMEMBER WESTRAY. ENFORCE THE LAW.

April 28 Day of Mourning:  
REMEMBER WESTRAY. ENFORCE  
THE LAW.

Each year on April 28, the labour movement marks its most solemn day, the *National Day of Mourning for workers killed or injured on the job*. Thousands of workers, friends and families of fallen workers gather at ceremonies across the country to mourn for the dead, while we continue to fight for the living and highlight ways unions are working to make all workplaces safer.

This April 28, the Canadian Labour Congress is honouring the 25th anniversary of the Westray mine disaster by calling on the federal government to enforce the corporate criminal negligence sections of the *Criminal Code of Canada* otherwise known as the Westray Law. In cities and towns across Canada, Day of Mourning events will echo the slogan, "Remember Westray. Enforce the Law", as we take united action to prevent further tragedies like the one that claimed the lives of 26 miners in Pictou County, Nova Scotia, in 1992.

After that fateful event in 1992, the United Steelworkers campaigned for 12 years to change the *Criminal Code of Canada* so that employers could be held criminally responsible for negligence causing death or serious injury. However, since the Westray law came into effect in 2004, an average of 1,000 workers have been killed on the job every year. Very few employers have

been criminally convicted, and only one has faced a prison sentence.

While not every worker death is caused by employer negligence, the families of fallen workers deserve to know the police have done more than just rule out foul play, and that employer negligence has been considered as a possible cause.

This year, Canada's unions are calling on the federal government to enforce the Westray Law by:

1. working with the provinces and territories to adopt an action plan that will ensure enforcement;
2. training federal health and safety inspectors; and
3. training the RCMP to enforce the law.

The CLC has produced materials for labour councils to use in their Day of Mourning activities across the country, including banners, leaflets, sample op eds, and shared graphics for social media. Please contact our communications team for more information at [communications@clc-ctc.ca](mailto:communications@clc-ctc.ca).

Working together, we can convince the federal government to lead the way on enforcing the Westray Law. Honour the dead. Fight for the living on this 25th anniversary of the Westray disaster.



Canadian Labour Congress

Congrès du travail du Canada





## Calling Young Workers!

Join us for an exciting, educational, and forward-thinking strategy session as we dive into issues important to young workers, and create a strategy for how we're going to make work better for young people.

### Young Workers for #FairFuture - CLC Young Workers' Strategy Session

May 7, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Metro Toronto Convention Centre

If you are a delegate to CLC Convention: make sure you arrive a day early to participate in this important event!

If you are not a delegate to CLC Convention: local young union members who are not delegates to CLC Convention are also welcome to register and attend this one-day event.

The CLC defines young workers as age 30 and under, however, for the purposes of this event, anyone defined as a young worker by their affiliate is welcome to participate. There will be simultaneous translation (English / French) at this session. There is no registration fee. Please email us at [youngworkers@clc-ctc.ca](mailto:youngworkers@clc-ctc.ca) with any questions.

**REGISTER [HERE](#)**

**FIND US ON FACEBOOK [HERE](#)**

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## CLC Labour Council Forum

Our Constitutional Convention in Toronto is just a few months away. The **LABOUR COUNCIL FORUM** "*Building Labour Council Power*" will take place on:

May 7, 2017 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Metro Toronto Convention Centre

More information will be sent to you closer to the date of the forum.

Don't forget to invite all of your labour council delegates who will be attending the CLC Convention and may be interested in our discussion - **get the word out!**

We are looking forward to seeing you in Toronto!

# BUDGET 2017

## CLC Sees Skills Training, Infrastructure and Child care as Budget Highlights

The Canadian Labour Congress says the federal budget takes positive steps on a few key issues for working Canadians and their communities.

"We are pleased to see today's budget invest in several key areas that unions have long championed, including infrastructure, skills training, and child care," said Canadian Labour Congress President Hassan Yussuff.

"By investing in skills training and infrastructure, including \$11 billion in support of a National Housing Strategy, this budget lays the foundation for the creation of good jobs with a social benefit. It also sets the stage for an ongoing, constructive dialogue between government, unions and employer groups to advance skills training in this country," Yussuff said.

However, Yussuff noted concerns with the establishment of a new Canada Infrastructure Bank, designed to facilitate private investment in public infrastructure, even though reports consistently show these P3 projects are more costly and offer lower-quality jobs and services.

"Government must ensure public infrastructure is publicly financed and operated. We do not need more of the same private-public partnerships that hurt change workers and communities," Yussuff said.

Child care is another issue that has been a top priority for unions for many years, and Yussuff said he was pleased to see the government commit to multi-year funding (\$7 billion over 10 years) under a national child care framework. This includes 40,000 new subsidized child-care spaces for low- and modest-income families.

"This is an important step in the process towards quality, accessible child care for all Canadian families. Next, the federal, provincial and territorial governments must work to ensure increased funding that is tied to the principles of the Shared Framework on child care," Yussuff said.

Unions are pleased to see Budget 2017 commit to measures to strengthen Canada's trade remedy system, including amendments to ensure that unions have the right to participate as interested parties in trade remedy proceedings. Unions will continue to push to ensure unions can also file complaints to initiate proceedings.

However, the CLC expressed disappointment on other issues that impact Canadian workers. First, Employment Insurance, which will continue to leave too many unemployed Canadians behind due to very strict eligibility requirements and inadequate benefits.

Second, on the issue of health care, the CLC welcomes investments in mental health and home care, but had been hoping to see the government commit to stable and long-term health care funding under a national health accord. Unfortunately, this budget maintains the Harper government's reduction in the Canada Health Transfer, which ensures continued underfunding of the health care system as a whole.

Finally, unions were disappointed that Budget 2017 did not improve the Working Income Tax Benefit, which means it will continue to remain inaccessible for full time, minimum-wage workers.

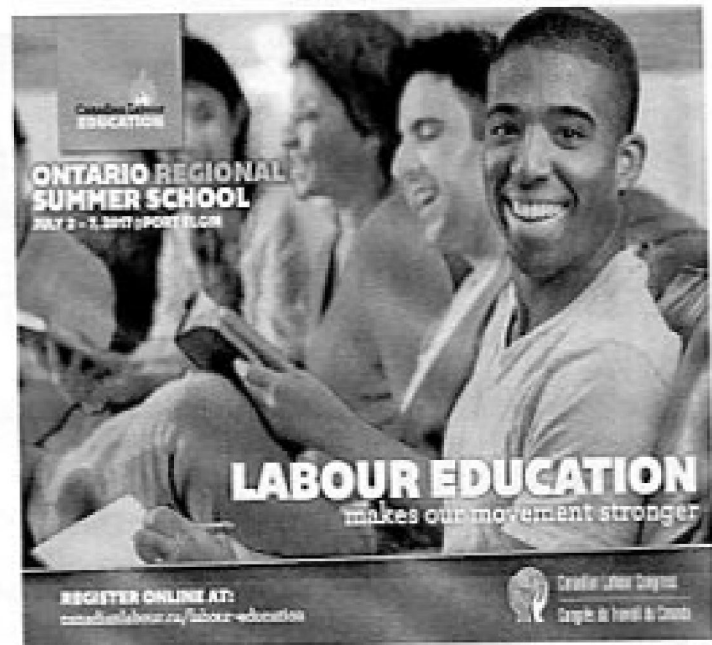
You can find the full budget analysis at:  
<http://documents.clc-ctc.ca/communications/2017-03-24-Budgetanalysis-EN.pdf>

## 2017 Ontario Region Summer School July 2 - 7, 2017

The Ontario Region's 2017 Summer School will be running from July 2 -7, 2017 at the UNIFOR Family Education Centre in Port Elgin.

Courses being offered include: Facing Management Effectively, Member Engagement - Member Action, Mental Health in the Workplace (New for 2016), Parliamentary Procedure and Public Speaking, Steward Training Level 1, Transforming Conflict, WHSC: Making the link between Occupational Disease and the Workplace, Appeals, and Documenting Health and Safety, and ODRT Level 1 (Rights and Obligations) and Level 2 (Benefits and Services).

For more information and to register, please visit our website at: <http://canadianlabour.ca/union-education/workshops-and-courses/ontario-region-summer-school>



## 2017 Ontario Region Women's School July 9 - 14, 2017

The Ontario Region's 2017 Women's School will be held from July 9 - 14, 2017 at the UNIFOR Family Education Centre in Port Elgin.

Courses being offered include: Candidate Development for Women, Collective Bargaining Level 1, Union Women on Turtle Island, Using Modern Tools to Talk with Your Members, Taking Unions to Next Generation, Sisters in the Struggle (ETFO Members Only), and UNIFOR Women in Leadership (for UNIFOR Members only).

For more information and to register, please visit our website at: <http://canadianlabour.ca/union-education/workshops-and-courses/womens-summer-school>



**THE EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT  
TO THE TORONTO & YORK REGION GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2017**

**“Step Up and Speak Out”**

Earlier this year, we all mourned the hate-motivated deaths of six Canadian men in Quebec City. Labour Council pledged to respond to this tragedy by building powerful movements to challenge Islamophobia and all forms of discrimination. Recognizing the immense challenge ahead, we worked with the Urban Alliance on Race Relations to mark International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (IDERD) on March 21<sup>st</sup>. That night, Council Chambers at Toronto City Hall was packed with people demanding authorities do more to stop racism and Islamophobia, a first step in taking action.

Sowing the seeds of xenophobia is not new – it is part of a long history of hatred and division in this country. From our treatment of Indigenous peoples, to anti-semitism and anti-black racism, to today’s Islamophobia, the ongoing chronicle of displacement, turning away, and discriminating against group after group is as much Canada’s story as are other themes this country celebrates on its 150-plus anniversary.

Labour has often stood in solidarity with those who are oppressed, sometimes voluntarily and other times in response to pressure. In 1947 the Labour Council with the strength of its Jewish and black members created the Toronto Joint Labour Committee on Human Rights to combat anti-semitism and racism. Carrying on attempts by labour to learn about and challenge racism within the movement as well as in society, the OFL led a major public campaign in the 1980s entitled Racism Hurts Everyone. These fight backs had great impact in their day.

If left unchallenged, racist rhetoric and actions can stir up anti-immigrant, anti-Muslim and anti-Indigenous sentiment. In times of economic downturn and diminishing opportunity, the seeds of division are fertilized by the same sections of the corporate elite who seek to divide working people. We have seen how right-wing populism can take hold, especially when people are frustrated with economic injustice. History shows us that at its extreme, such populism can be incredibly destructive. Today, challenging this situation is more important than ever for working people.

As CLC leader Hassan Yussuff said to the IDERD assembly on March 21<sup>st</sup>, “Our country has a racist past but doesn’t have to have a racist future.” To counter the rise in intolerance and xenophobia, participants at the Toronto event endorsed five themes for action:

**Step up and Speak Out**– Challenge Islamophobia anywhere it appears. Call on the federal government to declare January 29th as National Day of Remembrance and Action Against Islamophobia. Ask every public institution to develop a plan to counter all forms of bigotry, particularly anti-Black racism. Support the Charter for Inclusive Communities.

**Shut down hate**– Use every means possible to limit the reach of hate-spreading media outlets such as Rebel Media. Demand full prosecution of hate crimes by police services across the country.

**Challenge the Conservative Party**– Demand that those with financial and political influence in the Conservative Party act decisively to turn their party away from the politics of division and intolerance.

**Challenge Corporate Canada**– From the Board of Trade, the Council of Chief Executives, to the Mayor of Toronto, those with the most power in society must take a firm stand against discrimination and sever alliances with anyone who promotes intolerance or xenophobia.

**Build a sustainable economy with good jobs** - for all instead of austerity. Recognize that right-wing populism thrives on people's frustration with economic injustice.

Labour Council is encouraged by both the number of participants at the event and the mandate they gave us to challenge xenophobia, hate and extremism in all its forms. A new movement towards inclusion including supporting the Truth and Reconciliation process with Indigenous communities has been kick-started. While we may point fingers at the hateful seeds that were watered and fertilized by the recent Trump election, we can and must take responsibility for action closer to home.

The Executive Board recommends that Labour Council:

- Endorse the five IDERD themes for action.
- Work in partnership with the Urban Alliance on Race Relations to organize further community meetings in York Region, Etobicoke and Scarborough, as well as other meetings as appropriate, giving a voice to those communities in shaping actions that will challenge hatred and division.
- Work with affiliates to create "flying squads," rapid response teams that can peacefully counter organized expressions of hate on short notice.
- Look for opportunities to partner with civil society, employers and governments to increase awareness and support of the need for equity.
- Work with affiliates to build an anti-racism movement that will challenge hatred at every level.