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

November 1, 2018

Delegates present: Murray Cooke, 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 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.html*](http://www.labourcouncil.ca/calendar.html)*.* For current Council campaigns: <http://www.labourcouncil.ca/campaigns.html>.

* The 3 1/2 month-long IATSE strike at Exhibition Place continues, but there is now some hope of a settlement.
* There were two speakers on the murders at a Pittsburgh synagogue, and a moment of silence. <http://www.labourcouncil.ca/uploads/8/8/6/1/8861416/2018.10.29-tyrlc-_pittsburghtragedy.pdf>
* Defeated city council candidate Joe Mihevc spoke about his many years of service and his take on the election campaign. There was a debate on labour’s approach to the elections, in which some speakers took a ‘glass half-full’ stance and others a ‘glass half-empty’ stance, critical of Council’s approach. Two speakers mentioned that Council-endorsed candidate for mayor Jennifer Keesmaat had not run a particularly progressive or pro-labour campaign. In endorsing candidates, there was too much emphasis on electability and not enough on candidates’ positions. One speaker said that “We (Labour) are the ones that make candidates electable”. Two speakers suggested that Council should have endorsed Saron Gebresellassi (see 3903 delegates’ report for September 2018); Council President Cartwright said that she had been invited to appear before the endorsation committee but had declined. <http://www.labourcouncil.ca/uploads/8/8/6/1/8861416/election_outcome_-_oct2018.pdf>
* There was a report on Bill 47, which takes back many of the advances for labour brought in by the previous government. There will be public hearings on the bill on November 15, for which citizens can sign up. <http://www.labourcouncil.ca/uploads/8/8/6/1/8861416/2018.10.24-tyrlc-_bigboysarecheering.pdf>
* Council adopted a statement “The 1% agenda” about expected anti-labour, anti-diversity and far right activities in the coming years.
* Council adopted a statement “Reject Ford’s Attack on Free Speech”, resolving that Council “go on record as opposing the Ontario government’s anti-democratic ‘free speech on campus’ mandate” and that Council “support and encourage universities and colleges to refuse to implement any policy that may restrict the right to protest”.
* A speaker from the Canadian Labour Congress reviewed victories of labour-endorsed candidates in municipal elections in Ontario, Manitoba and BC. He noted in particular the victory of labour-endorsed candidate Diane Therrien (former president of CUPE 3908 at Trent), who will now be Mayor of Peterborough. She received 69% of the vote, defeating the incumbent mayor.
* A speaker from the Amalgamated Transit Union spoke about the arbitration process for TTC workers (who are not allowed to strike). They are on the whole happy with the award handed down by arbitrator William Kaplan (with whom many of us were not so happy earlier this year). <https://wemovetoronto.ca/read-ttc-blocked-from-contracting-out-transit-operations-as-arbitrator-ends-contract-dispute/>
* A video was shown about the United Way/Community Benefits program, in particular its partnership with Metrolinx to create employment and apprenticeships for residents of priority communities during the construction of the Eglinton LRT. <https://imagineacity.ca/2016/11/10/are-community-benefits-a-roadmap-for-the-future/>