

Toronto and York Region Labour Council
Monthly Meeting, July 4, 2013
CUPE 3903 Report back by Murray Cooke and Chris Bailey

Agenda items, presentations, reports:

1. Report from recently striking Porter workers on their struggle and new collective agreement.

2. Toronto Plaza Hotel workers (Steelworkers local) on strike. 1677 Wilson Ave. just west of Jane St. They are holding a rally on Thurs, July 11th from 11:30am-12:30. For more information contact Stuart Deans 416-977-7274.

3. York Political Science Professor Dennis Pilon spoke on the topic of "Right-wing populism and municipal politics," in particular Rob Ford's chances for re-election.

4. Winnie Ng discussed her recent co-authored report, "An Immigrant All Over Again? Recession, Plant Closures and (Older) Racialized Immigrant Workers: A case study of the workers of Progressive Moulded Products." The report looks at the aftermath of the closure of the non-unionized auto-parts maker in Vaughan in 2008 that saw 2400 workers lose their jobs.

http://www.ryerson.ca/content/dam/clmr/research_and_funding/Winnie_Ng_Final_Report.pdf

5. The Labour Council passed a report from the executive entitled "Together Fairness Works."

This report highlights a Canadian Labour Congress campaign "to highlight the values of the union movement under the banner 'Together Fairness Works.'" See: <http://www.canadianlabour.ca/action-center/together-fairness-works>

The CLC will be:

i) organizing Labour Day celebrations across the country, including in towns and cities that have not recently held such events.

ii) launching an extensive ad campaign

iii) holding special meetings of union leaders in 17 cities (it sounds like the Toronto meeting will be September 28).

iv) encouraging locals to engage in workplace discussions and one-on-one discussions with members. (Labour Council will work with affiliated to assist planning and implementing this task).

v) connect the attack on worker's rights with the rest of their agenda for a low-wage economy (cuts to EI, abuse of Foreign Temporary worker Program, trade deals, attacks on pensions, reductions to Old Age Security, other cuts to public services).

The Executive Board recommends that Labour Council:

i) Congratulate those Senators who voted to amend Bill 377 to limit its impact

ii) Continue to expose the anti-worker agenda of the federal and provincial and municipal Conservatives, and its connection to a low-wage economy

iii) Urge affiliates to commit to engage their members in workplace discussions as outlined in the Workers' Rights campaign plan

iv) Support the Canadian Labour Congress and affiliates in popularizing the messages of the Together Fairness Works campaign.

6. Numerous reps from union locals emphasized the importance of defeating Conservative and Liberal candidates in the 5 Ontario by-elections being held Aug 1, in Etobicoke, Scarborough, Windsor, London and Ottawa.

7. At the end of July, the provincial and territorial premiers will be meeting in Niagara-on-the-Lake for the last "Council of the Federation" meeting before

the 10-Year Health Accord elapses. Concerned about the future of healthcare funding, the Ontario Health Coalition and other groups will be holding a "Shadow Summit" on Wed. July 24 and Thur. July 25 in Niagara-on-the-Lake, and a Mass Rally to Uphold National Public Medicare and in support of a Renewed Health Accord will be held on July 25 at 11am. There will be buses from across Ontario [<http://www.cupe.on.ca/s372/shadow-summit-mass-rally>].