

Ouwcc Newsletter

Vol. 3, No. 1

February 2012

University Workers at Ontario Federation of Labour (OFL)

Labour occupied the Toronto Sheraton when 1,500 Trade Unionists congregated for the 11th Biennial Ontario Federation of Labour (OFL) Convention November 21 – 25, 2011.

Although, OPSEU, SEIU & ONO made the political decision to send no delegates, CAW's return to the hall pushed the attendance to 500 more delegates than the previous convention in 2009.

The CUPE delegation registered at 250 with several university workers in attendance representing both OUWCC affiliated locals and labour councils.

Expectations regarding the election of the three Executive Officers: President, Secretary-Treasurer and Vice-President were high. The months leading into Convention, the Unity Team lead by the incumbent president Sid Ryan reoffering, Nancy Hutchinson (USW) offering for Secretary-Treasurer and Irwin Nanda (CUPW) offering for Vice-President had been campaigning across the province and were supported by several labour councils. The night previous to convention, convening Sisters Marie Kelly (then Secretary-Treasurer) and Terry Downey (then Vice-President), informed the OFL Executive Board they would not be reoffering for their executive positions.

At Convention, Brother Ryan was acclaimed as was Sister Hutchinson. A Sister from PSAC did offer for the position of Vice-President, but despite the challenge and several delegates displeasure with the way the nomination process was conducted, Brother Irwin Nanda was successful.

The Unity Team, in their acceptance comments, reached out to OPSEU, SEIU and ONO to come back into the house – we can only hope that all work towards that goal.

Post-Secondary workers spoke on several policy papers and resolutions including Health & Safety Education Sector Regulations, Pensions, Value of Public Services, Good Jobs Now, Civil Disobedience and CETA.

Highlights of the convention included an incredible thirty-minute motivational speech about the labour movement in the States and what we, in Canada, must learn from that experience from Brother Terry Melvin, Secretary-Treasurer from New York State AFL-CIO and the emotional Jack Layton Memorial Tribute with Video that was attended by Olivia Chow.

The convention, as a whole, offered support to Occupy Toronto and organized two marches to the Occupy site and a march with Occupy folks from across the province through the Financial District. Delegates from Convention were encouraged to, and many did stop by during lunch and in the evening. On the Wednesday morning, a few university workers, along with Judy Rebick, Faith Nolan, and Candace Rennick, were on site during the eviction to both support the CUPE workers who were ordered to carry out the clean up of the eviction and take the police/media attention off the occupiers who needed the opportunity to make their decisions about leaving.

As always, opportunities for labour to come together and plot our fight-back strategies are to our advantage and must happen with far greater frequency if we are to survive! We encourage all post-secondary workers to attend their local labour council meetings to support workers in your community and to ensure we all understand each other's struggles, campaigns and victories.

Janice Folk-Dawson, OUWCC Chair



Janice Folk-Dawson, Chair
James Meades, Vice Chair
Dayn Gray, Recording Secretary
Lisa Marion, Health and Safety Representative (Temporary)
Steve Pepper, Injured Worker & Trades Representative
Yongfang Jia, Employment Equity, Chair

Campus Representatives

Dayn Gray, Brock University
Pam Griffin-Hody, Carleton University
Laura Solomon, Guelph University
Serge Laforest, Lakehead University
Nancy McBain, McMaster University
Payam Sadeghi, Ottawa University
Lisa Marion, Queens University
Shawn McFadden, Ryerson University
Stephen Horner, Trent University
Rudy Won, University of Toronto
Kelly-Anne Clements, University of Toronto (Alternate)
Doug Campbell, Waterloo University
Wes Brown, University of Western Ontario
Vacant, Wilfred Laurier
James Kehoe, Windsor University
Luis Figueiredo, York University

CUPE Staff

David Michor, University Coordinator
Wendy Hill, Secretary
Wendy Forbes, CUPE Communications
Linda Thurston-Neeley, Assistant Ontario Regional Director
Gina Gignac, CUPE Equality
Andrew Ward, CUPE Research
Joanne Webb, CUPE Ontario Diversity VP (Aboriginal Workers)
Veriline Howe, CUPE Ontario Diversity VP (Racialized Workers)
Maureen Giuliani, Liaison, CUPE Ontario

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The Great Ouwcc Trivia Contest! The Great Ouwcc Newsletter Trivia Contest (Gontc)!

Gontc #2 – February 2012

Your opportunity to win great CUPE prizes AND have your name published in the next Ouwcc Newsletter!

Send your answers in by March 2, 2012.

Please Note: Here are the questions you must answer correctly:

1. Who represents injured workers on the Ouwcc?
2. Whose is the task eternal?
3. What is the newest university at the Ouwcc table?
4. What does UHIP stand for?

Please send answers to: grifhody@gmail.com and use the subject line: **Ouwcc Trivia Contest**.

Also, please include:

- (1) Your answers with the corresponding number
- (2) Your name
- (3) Your local
- (4) Type of local or type of work (academic, contract instructor, library worker, custodian, trades...)
- (5) The address to send your wonderful prize to should you win!

The prizes will be awarded by first-come with all, or the most, correct answers. **Good Luck to everyone!**

Here are the winning answers to the December 2011 trivia contest:

1. Where is the Ouwcc Conference in 2012?

Hilton Hotels & Resorts in London, Ontario from February 22nd - 26th 2012

2. Where does this statement come from? "...in and for each Province, the Legislature may exclusively make laws in relation to Education..."

The British North America Act of 1867 for the Distribution of Legislative Power as regards Education

3. Who is YOUR campus rep on the Ouwcc?

For Carleton University we are represented by Ms Pam Griffin-Hody

CONTESTANT WINNER'S INFORMATION:

Kenneth Akhiwu
CUPE 2424
Carleton University

Commitment – Coordination – Capacity – Progress

The Ouwcc Conference, planned for February 23 to 26, is looking like it will be challenging as we work to develop an Action Plan for the next few years. Some of you may know me already. I was the staff coordinator for the university sector a few years back—my last conference with Ouwcc was in 2009—and I am looking forward to working with the committee and delegates as you set goals and actions for the future.

As the name suggests, the Conference will be about renewing our Commitment, improving our Coordination, building Capacity, and making Progress. On opening night, we will have panelists talking about our economy and how the university funding impacts workers and students on campus. There will be opportunities to address the panel as we explore strategic tactics, lobby work, building capacity in our members and communities and direct action.

The days that follow will be filled by a combination of guest speakers, providing delegates information and insights for consideration, and workshops on building capacity, lobbying skills, bargaining targets and goals, anti-privatization, and some others of specific interest in health and safety, as well as food services on campuses.

Saturday night, we will be hosting an interesting Social Justice Forum for those delegates interested in attending. Sunday morning, we will offer the opinions and experiences so the delegates can develop their action plan.

2012 is also an election year for the Ouwcc, so we will have to make time on Sunday to complete the work of the committee. It will be a packed few days, and I look forward to meeting and working with all of you.

Registration forms can be found at: www.cupe.on.ca — lower left-hand side of home page.

David Michor,
University Coordinator

