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September 8, 2011

Dear Sisters and Brothers;

I want to remind you that the 2011 OFL convention is fast approaching. The convention opens on November 21st and continues to November 25th. Over the next couple of days, you should get a call from either Bonnie or Bridgett from CUPE Local 966. They are helping to build a large CUPE delegation at the convention. You can contact them at 416-299-9739 extension 303.

Sid Ryan, CUPE Ontario's Past President, has done a terrific job as the President of the OFL. On September 6, a new OFL Unity Team was announced. This team has Sid as President, Nancy Hutchison (USW) as Secretary-Treasurer and Irwin Nanda (CUPW) as Executive Vice-President. This is a team that can work together. As the first public sector President of the OFL, Sid has significantly raised the profile and effectiveness of the organization in his first term.

Sid, however, should be given an opportunity to lead the OFL without roadblocks. Although under Sid's leadership the OFL has led massive protests to defend public sector jobs, as well as defend workers on the picket line and accomplish important health and safety protections for workers in Ontario, some affiliates for purely political reasons, cut their OFL per capita.

This led to staff layoffs at the OFL. Sadly, the current OFL Secretary-Treasurer and Executive Vice-President sided with these affiliates.

We have attached the announcement letter because it clearly outlines why the labour movement needs to get behind this team. The OFL election this Fall is about being in a position to defend workers' rights based upon labour unity in Ontario.

In order to be seated at convention, all affiliation fees need to be paid up to and including the month of August 2011. To confirm that your local is eligible to be seated at convention or to affiliate, please contact Elizabeth Smith-Vanbeek at the OFL - esvb@ofl.ca / 416-571-3089.

It is very important to remember that this year all of the credentials will need to be received in the OFL office by November 7th. No credentials will be accepted beyond this date.

Once again, it's important to make sure that your local meets these deadlines and sends a full delegation.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fred Hahn".

Fred Hahn
President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Candace Rennick".

Candace Rennick
Secretary Treasurer

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Fred Hahn
President

ONE STRONG VOICE

Candace Rennick
Secretary-Treasurer