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Sisters and Brothers;

On behalf of the Executive, we hope you had a wonderful summer and are enjoying the beautiful summer-like weather we are still experiencing this October.



Summer concluded with another fantastic Labour Day Parade. Each year we see more and more COPE Local 343 members joining us as we march in solidarity through the streets of downtown Toronto and into the CNE gates. Many go on to enjoy the terrific food, shows, games and rides at the CNE.

We would like to thank those that stepped forward and took on the volunteer role of "Labour Day Lead" in cities and towns across the province. We sent COPE Local 343 flags and swag to those members who assisted in coordinating and getting COPE 343 members from their region together.

Although we say goodbye to summer, we are looking to seeing many of you at some of the great events we have planned this fall and winter.



Northern Summit

Submitted by: Casey Oraa

On Friday, September 15, members of COPE Locals from across Ontario descended on Thunder Bay for COPE Ontario's first ever Northern Summit! Organized around the theme "Building Bridges to the North", delegates spent the weekend learning about Thunder Bay, the context and challenges of living in the north, and enjoying the beauty of the city.

On the Saturday, following a short plenary that started with a traditional Indigenous welcome and drum performance, members spent the morning participating in one of two workshops - "Future of the North – Changing Economy and its Impact to Labour", or, "Building Bridges – Revisioning COPE Ontario Communication Strategies". The former workshop provided participants with plenty of insight into the shifting economy and demographics of Thunder Bay while the latter workshop encouraged participants to discuss the ways in which COPE Ontario can improve communications with Locals as well as increasing inter-Local collaboration. In the afternoon, another two workshops were held - "Organizing Strategies – Growing Stronger Together", and, "Young Workers – The Young and the Restless". The Organizing workshop focused on some of the skills and challenges related to Organizing while the Young Workers workshop honed in on intergenerational activism and how we can support young workers.

Following a full day of learning, delegates were bused out to the Terry Fox memorial, provided with an opportunity to check out some of the local sights and finally, were dropped off for dinner with the Sleeping Giant as a backdrop. Following a delicious meal, delegates were broken up into groups and participated in a rousing game of Trivial Pursuit.

Sunday morning, Sandi Boucher, an Indigenous educator and speaker, spoke to the delegates about some of the challenges facing Indigenous communities and how one can be supportive of

Indigenous persons and communities. Following this, report backs were given for each workshop. Lastly, Valerie Roberts-Francis, COPE Ontario President, and Diana Baker, President of COPE Local 454, thanked everyone who came out as well as their fellow organizers who put together the Summit.

Overall, the first Northern Summit was a rousing success with many participants remarking that this shouldn't be the only COPE Ontario event ever held in the north. If the feedback for the Summit provides any sort of an indication, it's that this won't be the last time.

Buy Treats Manufactured by Unionized Workers

Halloween, several Winter Holiday events and Easter sees its share of indulgences which includes what else? Candy! Chocolate! Did you know that there are unionized workers at companies across the province producing these sweet treats? Mondelēz and Cadbury (formerly known as Neilson) candies including mini chocolate treats are manufactured by unionized workers. It takes a community to keep strong so by buying union made treats, you are keeping your comrades employed. And for those of you who live in the Toronto area, you might want to lineup at the Gladstone Avenue and College Cadbury factory where rumour has it, the workers will fill your bag in seconds flat with chocolate goodness.



Announcements

We would like to wish the following members a healthy and happy retirement:

- Ena O'Brien, CUPE Local 416
- Sue Jefferey, CUPE Ontario
- Patricia Vanderputt, CUPE Ontario



Coalition of Black Trade Unionists 2017 Convention

Submitted by: Carol Baker

Delegates never leave a Coalition of Black Trade Unionists convention feeling less than thoroughly enlightened and inspired. There are a variety of reasons for that, not the least of which is actually experiencing worker solidarity in action, rather than listening to what it is in theory. Even more tangible, though, is CBTU's international scope and willingness to wade into issues from a global perspective rather than merely through a regional lens.

CBTU's focus on international affairs is, above all, in response to its members desire to go beyond a superficial analysis of where we are as trade unionists and activists, and how we got here. CBTU also takes coalition building to a new level, and maximizes the far-reaching scope of its structure. By engaging in the evolution of the trade union movement in other parts of the world, such as South Africa, Brazil and Kenya, and examining the historical and present-day struggles of black workers world-wide, CBTU provides its members with a deeper understanding of our movement in North America.

One of the most enjoyable sessions at this year's convention was a conversation with CBTU President Rev. Terrence Melvin and President Emeritus Bill Lucy in a town hall format. Stressing the importance of connecting the foundations of an organization with its present vision, these men spoke of CBTU in its early days pushing back against American presidents like Richard Nixon and union leaders such as AFL-CIO President John Sweeney. They stressed the fact that what was being challenged was what these people stood for more so than themselves as individuals. The same is true of the current American President and, in the words of Rev. Melvin, "Trumpism will outlast Trump".

Attending CBTU conventions always reminds me why I fell in love with the labour movement in the first place. Time is always devoted to reflection

and honouring the legacies of previous CBTU leaders, whose words and actions guide us today. Equal time is given to challenging delegates to educate and think for themselves and, above all, to continue effectively bridging trade unionism and community, moving the CBTU vision forward and keeping it relevant.



Save the Date!!!

We are thrilled to advise we will be having our 1st Young Workers Forum - January 19th 2018, preceding our 1st Political Action Conference - January 20 – 21, 2018. So mark your calendars and watch for the call out later this fall!



Please also mark June 22 – 24, 2018 in your calendar...AGM! This AGM will be held at the UNIFOR Family Education Centre in Port Elgin.

We want to hear from you!

Questions, comments, suggestions, concerns...please get in touch! If you have an issue that you wish to bring to the Board's attention, we can always be reached

at cope343@on.aibn.com or by

using the mail form found

at <http://www.cope343.com/contact-us/>. If you prefer telephone or fax, the information can also be found on the Contact Page of Local's 343 website.



Rejecting the Politics of Division

Submitted by: Carol Baker

Rejecting the Politics of Division proved to be a powerfully relevant theme for this year's Toronto & York Region Labour Council's Aboriginal & Workers of Colour Conference.

Throughout the day, we heard from a series of dynamic speakers on the struggles faced within our communities and why we, as workers, do not benefit when we embrace the politics of division. From our allies at the Montreal Labour Council, Marc-Éduard Joubert, spoke of the struggle for equity faced by workers in the Province of Quebec. The Plenary with Crystal Sinclair of Idle No More Toronto, Sandy Hudson of Black Lives Matter Toronto and Gilary Massa from National Council of Canadian Muslims enlightened us to the struggles facing Indigenous communities, African Canadians and that faced by our Muslim Sisters and Brothers, much of which can reasonably be extended to all workers who are visibly of faith and colour. Finally, keynote speaker, Michael Etherington of the Native Canadian Centre of Toronto, spoke about Indigenous realities, Indigenous self-identification, and the effects international law and the *Indian Act, 1876* have had on Indigenous communities.

Expertly led workshops provided greater insight into the plight of refugees in Canada, mass incarceration, and much more, further reinforcing the message that the politics of division brings us all down, while everyone benefits when individuals and groups are lifted up.

Calling all Young Workers!

The OFL Young Workers' Committee will be hosting the third Young Workers' Assembly on November 18th, immediately preceding the OFL Convention.

Join us at the OFL Young Workers' Assembly

on November 18, 2017. Young workers can lead the labour movement to create decent work and push back against hate. Don't miss out on this opportunity to hear from young leaders and organizers charting a pathway toward a more inclusive and just world.

The Assembly will be taking place at the Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel, 123 Queen St. W., Toronto, ON M5H 2M9 from 9 am – 5 pm on November 18.

We are encouraging young workers to put their names forward to attend, including the children of members who wish to attend (14 years or older) to participate in intense discussion about today's labour struggles, more specifically to that of young workers!



Political Action

Submitted by: Ryan Donnelly & Kathy Clee

A political action committee can mean many different things to our members. It can be



marching in solidarity with progressive campaigns, identifying issues and organizing around them with our union and or it could be showing our members that if they decide to run for office that our union has their back.

Given the size of our membership, this much is clear – we have the power to be a force for change.

As many of you know our members are spread out across Ontario and this gives us a unique advantage. By mobilizing the power that we share as a union we can change the outcome of numerous local races and elect officials either from our union or those who support our union. We simply need to coordinate, train and prepare ourselves early and we can score big wins.

Our political action committee seeks to:

- Identify our members who want to seek elected office and support them.
- Provide the training for those who want to be involved in elections in other roles.
- Support our members who are standing up in their communities for progressive values.
- Support our sisters and brothers across the broader labour movement.

If you've ever been interested in becoming involved politically then consider calling in or joining one of our meetings or even just joining our mailing list. Whatever your passion is, we are here to support you and stand with you.

COPE 343 1st Scholarship

This year COPE Local 343 launched its first ever Scholarship Award in the amount of \$3,000.00. Because of the overwhelming response, the Local split the award 6 ways, giving 6 members/members children \$500.00 each.

Our topic for the Scholarship application submission was: "As we celebrate Canada's 150th anniversary, we must remember that Indigenous communities still face much adversity. How do you see Unions and citizens acting in solidarity with Indigenous communities in their fight for Equity?"

We were very impressed with all of the submissions, we received art pieces, essays, and even a YouTube video!

The six winners of the Scholarship award in order are:

1. Rachel Anderson
2. Matthew O'Reilly
3. Lisa Druchok
4. Adam Wspanialy
5. Jessica Carswell
6. Keisha Brunton

We thank everyone who submitted an application for the Scholarship, and we look forward to the 2018 Submissions! Keep an eye out for the application coming out in the spring!

It is important to acknowledge that we, as unionized members, are not here to change how indigenous people live and what their beliefs are. Rather we are here to help them with the opportunity to enter into unionized work if they please and offer the benefits that we are all so fortunate to have (i.e. minimum wage, equal pay, pensions, etc.).

Rachel Anderson,
First place scholarship winner