

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TORONTO & YORK REGION LABOUR COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY, May 7, 2020

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President Cartwright via ZOOM.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS:

Present were: Babbington, Irons, Hagi Yusuf, B'Dacy, Bruyn, Chang, David, Egan, Ferraro, Kwok, Lima, Lobo, Power, Spence, Tharani, Jones, Kidd
Staff: McMurray, Huang, Hashim, Maharaj, King, Mohamed, Shallhorn, Lopez
CLC: Moraes
Guest: Marc-Edouard Joubert, President, Montreal Labour Council; John Di Nino, ATU Canada President

HARASSMENT STATEMENT:

Harassment statement was read.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL LANDS:

Acknowledgement was read.

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR VICTIMS OF COVID 19:

A moment of silence was observed for the members who have lost their lives due to the pandemic.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

CREDENTIAL REPORT:

The following delegates were seated.

IATSE Local 58	-	3 delegates
SHEETMETAL Local 30	-	6 delegates
YUSA	-	7 delegates

VOICES FROM THE FRONT LINE:

Mohammed Hashim introduced Voices from the Front Line - a Youtube segment featuring union members designated as essential workers telling their stories as they work on the front lines. The episodes can be seen on Facebook as well. Skylar Maharaj showed clips of the first and second episodes.

EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT:

a) Presentation - Jim Stanford

John introduced Jim Stanford, Economist and Director of Centre for Future Work. Jim provided a slide show presentation entitled "Off the Cliff" which is a comprehensive study of the economic impact of the pandemic and what should happen with government and social issues after it is over - resist calls for austerity; recognise the value of all jobs; re-discover the importance of public services and infrastructure; create a new model of growth - public-led, democratic, focused on meeting human need; and permanently shift economic leadership. A short question and answer period was held.

b) **Speaker - Foodora Foods**

Foodora worker - Brice Sopher - spoke about Foodora shutting down the service in Canada with only two weeks notice to the workers. They were in the process of counting the votes to unionize so it was disappointing not to be able to complete the vote. Several positive things have happened as the workers discovered ways to be supportive of the other union members who supported them in their struggle for recognition. They were able to deliver over 500 boxes of food to workers in need. They also got good news when the OLB ruled that they are not "independent contractors". He gave a special thank you to CUPW for all of their support.

c) **Statement**

The statement entitled "Immorality and Corporate Greed" was adopted and is attached to these minutes. Tali Zrehen - SEIU Director CCHC spoke to the home care sector's concerns and Debra DeAngelis - UFCW spoke to the issue of temporary foreign workers.

d) **Small Group Discussion**

Several delegates shared points brought up during the discussions such as unions need to unite to fight against the Ford government after this epidemic is over.

e) **United Way Local Love Program**

Marcia Lopez, Labour Community Services, provided delegates with the information regarding the United Way Local Love program. The program is designed to support front line workers. The on the ground needs are changing quickly. The direct donations go into help for seniors, basic needs for those who are isolated, mental health support, support for volunteers and increasing capacity for community services.

f) **Correspondence**

1. Foodora gave notice that they will be leaving Canada giving workers two weeks notice. A hardship fund has been established to assist those members who are unable to access the CERB or any other form of assistance because of their undocumented status. **M/S/C to donate \$100 towards the hardship fund.**
2. Despite all the efforts to provide government funding, there are too many people falling into hardship so UWGT has launched the Local Love Fund to help provide emergency support to people in need. A donation to the Fund will provide help to seniors, Mental Health Support, fund basic needs and increase community services capacity. Donations made by May 30 will be matched dollar for dollar for double the impact. **M/S/C to donate \$500 to the United Way.**

CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS, COUNCIL PROJECTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Josh Moraes, CLC reported on Day of Mourning events around the province. The CLC is also working on interest rate reduction campaign and pharmacare. The pharmacare issue is even more important now as prescription refills are now 30 days rather than 90 days which means a dispensing fee has to be paid every month instead of every 3 months. Another campaign which will be launched soon will deal with pushing long term care into the public arena.

Ralph Chatoor, Society of United Professionals reported on the behalf of the Equity Committee. IWOC has been cancelled but they are thinking about holding a podcast instead. They are also working on a survey geared towards COVID 19 discrimination.

Laura Thompson, OPSEU reported on behalf of the Women's Committee. They held a ZOOM meeting and the bulk of the conversation centred around COVID 19 and the gender lens. The Sisters of the Roundtable may be held in the Fall.

REPORTS FROM UNIONS:

Carlos Santos, ATU Local 113 reported that they had 400 workers in York Region who are still without a collective agreement. He also reported that 1200 workers are being laid off by the TTC. The local has engaged in a letter writing campaign to Members of Parliament and Members of Provincial Parliament. Mayor Tory is also asking for funding from the federal and provincial governments. He reported that the local has 41 confirmed cases of COVID 19.

John asked Marc-Edouard Joubert, President, Montreal Labour Council to give an update on the situation in Quebec. He reported that the epidemic was overwhelming in Montreal. The long term care facilities have been hit the hardest.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

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