

FALL | 2019

LABOUR ACTION

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Organize, Educate, Resist

LABOUR DAY 2019



The International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 793

Local 793 of the International Union of Operating Engineers was the lead local union in the Labour Day Parade. Representing 15,000 crane and heavy equipment operators, the local is celebrating its centennial anniversary.





Labour Day 2019: Unions Pledge to “Organize, Educate, Resist!”

On Monday, September 2, over 20,000 union members took to the streets in Toronto’s 147th annual Labour Day Parade.

You will recognize the 2019 theme from our last edition of Labour Action: “ORGANIZE, EDUCATE, RESIST!” was chosen to bolster worker solidarity in the face of the Ford government’s austerity agenda and to ready unions for the fights ahead.

This year’s parade included workers from every sector of the workforce.

Digital economy workers were a new addition for 2019: both Foodora delivery workers and Uber drivers are newly organized by CUPW and UFCW respectively. The parade’s lead union was the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 793, celebrating its 100th anniversary.

It was evident throughout the parade that workers in diverse sectors are feeling the squeeze from this provincial government. From costumes to stickers, placards to petitions, many unions and allies

made it clear that they intend to resist regressive and anti-worker policies.

Notable examples of resistance include OPSEU’s climate justice-themed section (pictured), the Migrant Rights Network’s high-visibility “Unite Against Racism” campaign, and education workers’ collective show of resistance to cuts they’re facing.

The Toronto Labour Day parade has been held by the Labour Council annually since 1872. Labour Day has been officially recognized on the first Monday in September since 1894.

Labourers 506 Celebrates 100 Years

On November 14, 2019, LiUNA Local 506 will celebrate its 100th anniversary. The local represents thousands of skilled construction workers as well as members in the industrial sector, waste management, building supplies, cemeteries, exhibit and display, and the CNE and the Convention Centre.



A FAIR CANADA FOR EVERYONE



VOTE FOR PHARMACARE

Nobody should ever be forced to choose between putting food on the table and buying the medication they need. Let's elect a government that will implement a universal, single-payer, public pharmacare program that provides drug coverage for all Canadians.



VOTE FOR RETIREMENT SECURITY

After a lifetime of hard work, nobody should have to retire in poverty. Let's elect a government that will build a stronger public pension system and protect workers' pensions when a company goes bankrupt.



VOTE FOR CLIMATE ACTION

We don't have to choose between a strong economy and a clean environment. That's a false choice. With smart investments, we can and must have both. Let's elect a government that will tackle climate change and grow the economy by creating new jobs and opportunities.



VOTE FOR GOOD JOBS

Part-time, temporary, low-wage jobs are no way for anyone to build a future. Let's elect a government that will make economic investments that create good jobs for all Canadians, and will set a fair federal minimum wage at \$15 per hour.



VOTE FOR EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Diversity and solidarity are the strength of our democracy. We must reject politicians who want to divide us through prejudice, bias and fear. Let's elect a government that will build a country and a world of opportunity, where diversity and inclusion are promoted and celebrated.

GET OUT THE VOTE!

We have to make our voices heard and elect a government that will best represent and listen to our needs. Let's do our part to get out the vote this election!

Find out more about our plan for a Fair Canada for Everyone
Text FAIR to 343-800-1413 or at [Canadianlabour.ca](https://canadianlabour.ca)

Authorized by Fairness Works, fairnessworks.ca, 613-521-3400



Nearing The Pharmacare Finish Line



As we near the pharmacare finish line, we must keep our eyes on the prize. For decades, the Canadian Labour Congress has been a strong advocate for “finishing the business of medicare” that was started by Tommy Douglas and the NDP back in 1962, and it looks like that finish line is finally within sight.

In June, the federal government’s Advisory Council on the Implementation of National Pharmacare produced its final report, laying out a clear path for public, single-payer, universal pharmacare. The CLC has widely endorsed this report, which ticks nearly all of the boxes that Canadian labour has been advocating.

Labour Congress President Hassan Yussuff asserts that pharmacare “would become a cornerstone of Canada’s social safety net and a key pillar of our nation,” and by the numbers, it certainly looks to be true. Recent studies from UBC and the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives tell us that, for hundreds of thousands of Canadians, the high cost of medicine has forced households to make impossible choices between their health and food or rent. One study estimated that over 8 percent of Canadians have skipped doses or neglected to fill a prescription due to affordability.

The arguments for universal pharmacare are strong from a humanitarian and an economic perspective. A fair society must be one in which every person has the opportunity to succeed and to thrive. The report demonstrates that every family will save, on average, \$350 per year on medications, but it also clarifies that, by investing in appropriate medications now, the government will save “downstream” healthcare costs.

Moreover, the average business owner will save about \$750 per employee. In collective bargaining, this could make all the difference in negotiating a wage increase or extended benefits like dental or vision care.

One aspect of a truly universal pharmacare – that it be free for all users – is missing from the Advisory Council’s recommendations: the report assumes a system of copayments and user fees would still operate. It is disappointing that, when given the opportunity to reimagine pharmacare for all Canadians, the Advisory Council pulled up short at the idea of a truly fair, public universal system.

On the brink of finally implementing universal pharmacare, we can’t pull up short. With campaigns in full swing this fall, nearly all parties have developed a stance on pharmacare implementation, but not all plans are made equal. We need to hold our public officials to account and demand a strong finish: a legacy for future Canadians that would make Tommy Douglas proud.

Time To Transition To A Just, Low-Carbon Economy

The global climate crisis is real. Canada is warming at twice the global rate. Recent polls show the majority of Canadians are very concerned about climate change, even while unsure of carbon pricing. But while evidence of climate change is becoming harder to deny, we are running out of time to make a just transition to a low-carbon economy.

Around the world this past year, millions of students have walked out of school and dozens of global cities have declared climate emergencies. The disproportionate impact upon racialized communities and Indigenous people is well-documented.

Meanwhile, the Trudeau government purchased and forced through the construction of a pipeline and Conservative provincial governments are systematically dismantling existing environmental protections. The ballot question this October is about whether we'll have more of the same — or worse — or whether we're ready for real change.

To those who say taking action could hurt the economy, the response is clear: there are no jobs on a dead planet. If humanity is to survive, we must challenge powerful corporate interests that relentlessly press governments around the world to expand fossil fuel extraction.

Worldwide, governments, companies, unions, and individuals are taking real steps toward environmental sustainability. Among many important examples, we're seeing workers and communities adopting the concept of a "just transition." This year, Canada's Just Transition Task Force issued its report calling for a phase-out of coal while supporting affected workers and their communities.

There's no doubt that changing our economy will take hard work, but we do have an important guiding precedent. Four decades ago, Canadian unions challenged the accepted norm of workplace accidents and deaths by building a health and

safety movement. We had to confront employers and politicians, educate our members, build alliances, fight for regulations, and win laws for the implementation of workplace health and safety committees. We succeeded in dramatically reducing fatalities and occupational disease in Ontario.

We are ready to do it again, and the Labour Council's document Greenprint for Greater Toronto maps a path forward.

Toronto's labour movement is committed to help make the transition. Here are three steps that could help take our society closer to a sustainable future:

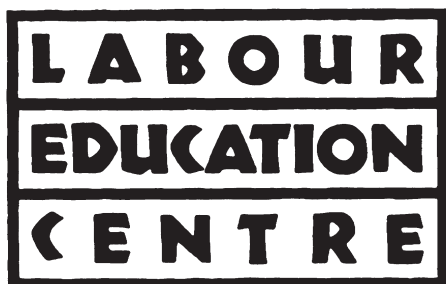
- Mobilize a network of activists to take the issue of climate justice to every workplace and community, explaining how failing to act now means we'll pay much more later.
- Create joint environment committees in every major workplace to help guide the transition to low-carbon operations.
- Partner with racial justice and environmental organizations to help deepen society's commitment to equity, community benefits and good jobs for all.

We need to demand more of governments and political leaders, and to call out those who are taking us backwards. Our environment — and our livelihood — is at risk. Each individual and organization has a role to play. We are called upon to build a broad social movement to fight for climate justice.

By John Cartwright
Originally Published in the Toronto Star,
Sun. August 11, 2019

The Labour Education Centre: Working Green

The Labour Education Centre (LEC) is where climate urgency informs union activism. LEC is a leader in union education and action on climate change and the importance of good, green jobs.



LEC's Working Green program is a research and action program on climate change and what workers, unions and workplaces can do to reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions (GHGs). The warming climate is the most critical challenge of our time. Working Green provides opportunities for workers to learn how take action on climate change. We can assist you with advocating for significant reductions in GHGs and for good and green jobs. There are 3 parts to Working Green:

1. Talking about Climate Change is a short introductory presentation that we can bring to your union or organization. It originated with the Leveraging Workers Knowledge project. The Working Green team assisted the labour/management joint committee of the Toronto District School Board to develop plans to reduce GHGs. This can also be an interactive workshop developed for union members. We offer a half-day or full-day workshop that can be customized to any union's needs and specifications.

2. Another Working Green project uses the term '**Just Transition**' from the 2015 Paris agreement on climate change. Just Transition means that when local industries close down society has a responsibility to provide alternative livelihoods for those workers and communities. Working Green conducted research on transition processes for workers at 4 coal-fired electricity plant closures. This project is part of Adapting Canadian Work and Workplaces to Respond to Climate Change, a 7-year research program based at York University.

3. Joint Management/Labour Committees on Climate Action -

The Labour Education Centre (LEC) supports a **Joint Labour Management Environment Committee (JMLEC)** at the Toronto District School Board. The mandate of the committee is to reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHGs) emissions at the Board. The committee has equal representation from labour and management and has developed an agenda to greatly decrease the Board's emissions. Participating unions are the Elementary Teachers of Toronto (ETT), Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation District 12 (OSSTF D12), Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE 4400) and the school boards' Maintenance & Construction Skilled Trades Council.

Through joint environmental committees newly established for this purpose, trained union members and management representatives will collaborate in order to understand the processes in their workplace that generate GHGs. Working together will result in finding realistic ways to reduce GHGs in the workplace. The Labour Education Centre is ready to facilitate setting up these committees in your workplace. We can help you work with other union members and the employer to combat this crisis. This approach borrows from a process currently in place in Canada's "big three" auto plants that use a joint process to address broad environmental issues.

For more information, contact Steve Shallhorn, Executive Director, at sshallhorn@laboureducation.org or Karen Lior, Director, Working Green, at klior@laboureducation.org.

Ford Resistance Report



June 7, 2019 marked one year of the Ford Conservative administration – but there was little to celebrate with this Ontario government. Over that week, people across Toronto and Ontario took action to put pressure on the Conservatives to reverse a series of unpopular cuts that have brought Premier Doug Ford's popularity to record lows.

Activities across the region shone a light on the issues. Events included school walk-ins at over 300 schools, “lunch and learn” events in workplaces and demonstrations in public spaces, and community canvasses in eleven Conservative ridings.

The events were part of ongoing grassroots efforts led by community and labour-based organizations to inform and empower people to take action and influence government. The Labour Council worked together with Progress Toronto, Urban Alliance on Race Relations, and the Campaign for Public Education to organize locally, helping tens of thousands of people to make their voices heard.

Programs and services like education, child care, and public health are on the chopping block. The province has reduced municipal representation while also putting policies in place to bypass local decision-making on issues such as transit and community planning. These moves have caused a massive wave of discontent among the public, which is reflected in the government's plunging approval ratings.

“Since his election one year ago, Doug Ford has been obsessed with dismantling Toronto, and every step of the way Progress Toronto has been helping tens of thousands of people push back against his cuts to public health, education, and transit,” said Erica Woods, Program and Operations Director at Progress Toronto.

Zuo Jun (Echo) Han, an Early Childhood Educator and mother of two young children, has recently become active around the cuts to education in her riding of Scarborough—Agincourt. “I have never been involved in politics before, but when I learned that my children's education was at risk, I knew I couldn't stay silent,” said Han. “Education is very important to the Chinese community. The international language program my daughter has attended is going to be cut. I've talked to other parents who are upset and they want to know what they can do to stop the cuts.”

“The gap between the rich and the rest of us continues to grow under the policies of the Ford government, people are barely hanging on as he sweeps the rug from under us,” said Nigel Barriffe, President of the Urban Alliance on Race Relations and elementary school teacher. “People in the communities I serve are worried that this government is leaving them behind—in the classroom, in the workplace, and in society. For regular working class folks, Indigenous peoples and people of colour, newcomers, someone who relies on the bus and who works multiple jobs to make ends meet, these are scary times.”

The stakes are high in the October federal election: a Conservative win would embolden the Ford government.

Toronto Says No To Bill 66



Toronto's construction unions have succeeded in keeping their collective agreements with key public agencies despite the attack by the Ford government's Bill 66. The City of Toronto, Toronto District School Board and Toronto Community Housing all voted to "opt out" of Bill 66 and maintain their long-standing relations with the skilled trades. Ford's legislation was a reward to anti-union contractor lobbyists who have been trying for years to undermine union standards across the country.

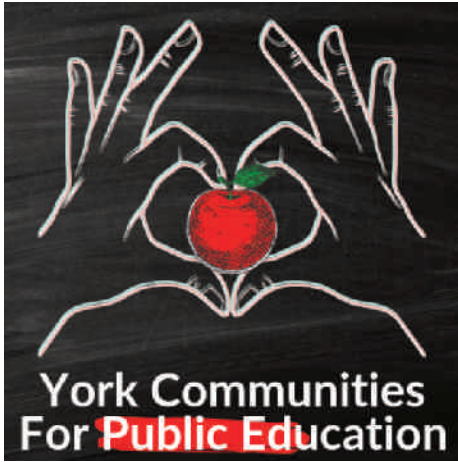
Bill 66 deletes all construction collective agreements with public sector institutions *unless the employer requests* to keep the agreement. Those contracts are now gone at the CNE and University of Toronto, as well as a number of cities across the province. This is a serious violation of basic labour rights – the right of workers, not employers, to determine union representation.

For three decades the anti-union Merit Contractors group, originally imported from the United States to help break unions in western Canada, has been obsessed with weakening union standards in the construction industry. They have been a major donor to Ontario's Conservative Party and have cemented their political influence at Queen's Park. Along with their friends at the Christian Labour Association (CLAC) they launched a barrage of distortions about potential savings – in some cases their figures suggest that skilled tradespeople would work for 30-40% less than the prevailing wages in the industry.

Construction unions in Toronto have over a century of proud history, raising standards and ensuring the safety of those who do some of the most dangerous work in our society. They play a vital role in apprenticeship and training, helping to forge the most productive construction workforce

in North America. This year both the Operating Engineers Local 793 and LiUNA Local 506 celebrate 100 years of history. Despite the setback of Bill 66, Toronto still remains a proud union city!

York Region Comes Together For Public Education



This past spring, when it became clear that education would be a target for the provincial government's vicious cuts, labour and community partners began to come together.

The group, now called York Communities for Public Education (YCFPE), is a coalition of education unions, parent groups, students, community organizations, and individuals who are concerned that the deep financial cuts to education are leading to a structural realignment that will permanently weaken Ontario's strong public system.

The idea for YCFPE piggybacks off of the extremely successful and deep-rooted Campaign for Education, which has been running strong in the Toronto area since the Harris era. Recognizing that York Region has many distinct qualities from Toronto geographically, socially, and politically, these communities required a unique approach.

The Labour Council has been supporting the coalition's development and providing basic organization – but it was immediately clear that there is a strong grassroots appetite for collective action, and many initiatives are already underway.

YCFPE hosts its first action on Saturday, September 14: a tailgate barbecue in the Minister of Education Stephen Lecce's own riding of King—Vaughan. The group is currently working towards a big launch event on October 28 at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts. This will be a town hall-style event featuring some theatrical presentations and information-sharing among like-minded folks from across the Region. It will be a family-friendly affair, and

all are welcome.

YCFPE is actively looking for more individuals and organizations to join the coalition. You'll be in good company if you do join: the core founding organizations include CUPE Local 1571, 1734, and 2331; Newmarket Parent Network, OSSTF District 16, the Social Planning Council of York Region, Toronto & York Region Labour Council, and York-OECTA; individual York Region parent advocates and retired teachers; and individual students from TDSB, YCDSB, YRDSB, and York University.

Not Just A Job: A Teacher Story

For York Region teachers Daniela Gillingham and Sara Cifardoni, the implications of the Ford government's massive cuts to education have been deeply personal.

Daniela was laid off from her first-ever permanent position while she was on maternity leave. "One week before going back, I got the phone call from HR. I remember it to this day: I was shopping with my son at the grocery store and my heart sunk."

Despite teaching on Long-Term Occasional contracts for seven years, Sara has never had a permanent position. "I bounce from school to school, grade to grade," said the mother of one. "I've been fortunate enough [in the past] to get that phone call on ... the Labour Day long weekend. But this year has been completely different in that there was no opportunity for full-year contracts."

The impact of these teachers' precarious work is all-consuming. "How am I going to support my growing family? Do I need to sell my

house? Cancel my family vacation? Take on an additional line of credit?" Daniela and her husband had to ask themselves these hard questions over a three-month period of uncertainty this summer. Sara noted that she works two additional jobs in order to afford expenses like a mortgage and daycare.

These women have needed to be relentless in their pursuit of their profession, which makes them exactly who we want to be teaching growing generations. They, like thousands of other young Ontario teachers, have spent substantial time and money earning additional qualifications, and have been patient through endless rounds of job interviews and contract positions.

OECTA leader and fellow York Catholic teacher Karen Ebanks reflected on her experience hearing

Daniela and Sara address the Labour Council delegates on September 5. "Teachers know that this is the reality. Just to be able to share their stories and their experiences with people from other unions is so important. We are feeling the precariousness of these times."

Teachers and education workers are not alone, as the effects of the Premier's cuts ripple through many sectors. From legal aid lawyers to people employed by Uber and Foodora, precarious work is becoming more common. But we can't let it become the norm. Labour must keep working for justice and fairness for all.



Rights for Gig Economy Workers



In a changing economy, we need to be vigilant about how workers' rights are impacted and eroded when “disruptive” technologies enter the labour market. That’s why the Foodora and Uber campaigns are crucially important.

The ever-evolving tech industry has brought in sweeping changes to how regular people live, work, and play in a very short time.

Apps and online platforms provide a dynamic solution to the demand for things like vehicles for hire, short-term rentals, deliveries, and more. However, these “disruptors” change more than our behavior; they have created an on-demand or “just in time” workforce that operates outside of existing workplace regulations.

This is known as the gig economy: work that is procured through a labour market mediated by a digital platform. The gig economy operates in legal grey zones. Workers have limited social and labour protections, and in fact, their classification as workers or employees is often in dispute. Yet the size of the gig economy is growing in scope and in scale, all over the world.

It is difficult to get an accurate number of how many Canadians are employed through gig jobs. Creators of these platforms would like us to think that users are primarily individuals who are supplementing their income, but increasingly, people are using them as a primary source of income. Are these not workers? Are these platforms, which profit from this work, not employers under the law?

Labour Challenges

- Gig workers are often dispersed and lacking a central, brick-and-mortar location where they can be identified and organized

- When gig workers are classified as independent contractors, they are not subject to the Employment Standards Act and their organizations cannot be union certified
- Disruptive technologies present new challenges to lawmakers who may be hesitant to restrict innovation/business, or who are uncertain about how to move forward with no precedents

Labour Solutions

- Fight the misclassification of workers through legal channels
- Organize gig workers
- Advocate for legal and regulatory reform municipally and provincially

Learn about campaigns addressing fairness for gig economy workers and access resources at: labourcouncil.ca/gig_economy.

Support Justice for Foodora Couriers at foodstersunited.ca and UBER Drivers United at ufcw.ca/uber

Temp Agencies And Fiera Foods: 4 Workers Have Died Since 1999

Shoddy Records. Empty Offices. Evasive Companies.

This is some of what Ministry of Labour inspectors found as they probed temp agencies that have supplied workers to one of the continent's biggest industrial bakeries, Fiera Foods. The ministry launched a proactive inspection of temp agencies, including those supplying the North York factory, following a 2017 Star investigation of the company and its affiliated plants, where three temp workers had died since 1999.

Over the past year, the Star has obtained court documents, workers' compensation records and Ministry of Labour inspection reports that illustrate the company's relationships with a complicated web of temp agencies that operate with little transparency or accountability. Some do not have a functioning office; others list their address as a UPS mailbox. Layers of temp agencies and subcontractors can make it difficult to

The Star obtained the ministry's inspection records related to some temp agencies that supply Fiera via a freedom of information request. Advocates have long argued that temp agencies, subcontractors, and their client companies should all be held responsible for employment rights to ensure accountability in the event of abuses.

Workers themselves are not always clear on which agency employs them. The Star spoke to one temp worker at Fiera last year who said he picked up his wages in cash from a payday lender in North York. The worker said he had worked at Fiera for years and that the agency that employed him had changed numerous times. He did not know the name of the agency he currently worked for.

In 2017, the Star went undercover as a temp worker at Fiera Foods after being hired through Magnus Services, whose office was an empty unit in a strip mall. The Star's reporter, who did not receive any training from the temp agency, was paid in cash with no pay stub and no deductions at a payday lender called Cashmania.

The Ford Conservatives eliminated all new measures designed to regulate temp agencies as part of their Bill 47 anti-worker legislation.

know who is a worker's true employer and who to hold accountable when something goes wrong.

Since 2015, at least 50 temp agencies have received clearance from the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board to provide workers to Fiera Foods and its affiliated plants. Fiera's workforce is around 70 per cent temporary, according to WSIB records.

An internal audit conducted by the WSIB between 2013 and 2016 also found that hundreds of temp agencies closed after being audited to ensure they were paying accurate insurance premiums and complying with other board requirements. A quarter of them subsequently re-opened under new names.

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This article is excerpted from a Toronto Star story by Sara Mojtahedzadeh and Brendan Kennedy from Tuesday, July 9, 2019. Find the link to the full story at labourcouncil.ca/gig_economy.



IWOC 2019

The annual Indigenous and Workers of Colour Conference took place on June 1 at the IBEW Hall. We had fantastic turnout this year from start to finish.

Attendees heard from a number of notable labour and community activists, including an all-women's panel featuring Saman Tabasinejad, Sharon Simpson, and Sumu Sathi (pictured) on the conference's theme, "Confronting Oppression and Building Unity."

Bromley Armstrong Awards

The Bromley Armstrong Award Gala took place June 7. This year's winner was Mark Brown of CUPW-Toronto, pictured with members of the Equity Committee of the Labour Council.



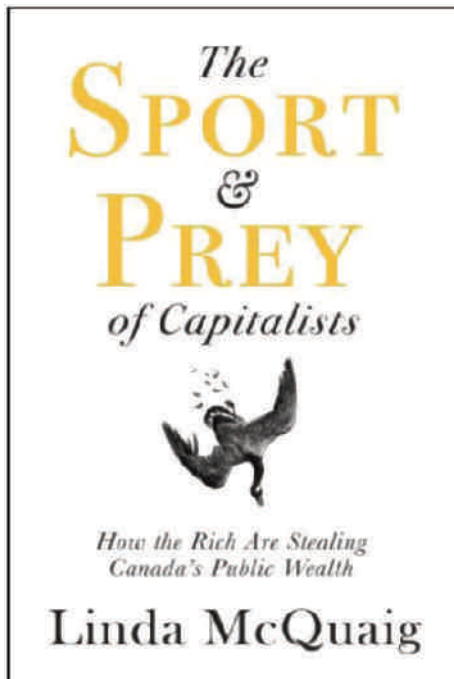
Pride 2019

Labour Council and its affiliates participated in Pride events in both Toronto and York Region in 2019. We recognize and honour that this colourful, festive event is, at its heart, an act of protest. Labour is proud to stand in solidarity with members of the LGBTQIA+ community and their allies. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, a key moment in the birth of the movement.

Ontario's Biggest Rip-Off



Author Linda McQuaig speaks to delegates at the Stewards Assembly, March 2019.



Linda McQuaig is one of Canada's most insightful writers about the modern economy. In her new book, *The Sport and Prey of Capitalists: How the Rich are stealing Canada's Public Wealth*, she exposes the biggest rip-off in Ontario's history, Highway 407. It's a cautionary tale – and good reason to fight privatization of any form of transit.

Privatization has become the economic dogma of our times — a doctrine that is rarely questioned, but has cost us dearly. To see the costs, we need look no farther than Highway 407.

Its sale in 1999 was the biggest privatization in Canadian history and almost certainly the worst deal of the century. It is absurd to merely call Mike Harris's privatization of the 407 nothing stronger than a bad deal; it was an unconscionably bad deal. The Conservative premier signed a 99-year-lease, handing the highway over to a foreign consortium for \$3 billion – far below what it was worth, which is a fraction of what it will be worth in a generation (or two or three), when it will still be in private hands.

The sheer amount of money the Harris government gave up is astonishing. Recent estimates put the value of the 407 at a staggering \$30 billion today – expected to rise to \$45 billion by 2026.

Not only did the Harris government dramatically underprice the 407, but it also failed to put in place any safeguards to prevent the private consortium from continually raising tolls. As a CIBC analyst observed a couple of years ago: "We note that 407 International still has flexibility to increase tolls for 81 years." Flexibility indeed! Mike Harris may have fashioned himself "the tax cutter" before he got out of town, but he left

Ontarians endlessly at the mercy of a foreign company bent on charging them ever-higher tolls.

But there's a more fundamental problem. The real travesty here is that the Harris government rejected the better option of retaining public ownership. Had the 407 remained publicly owned, the highway construction costs would have been paid for by now, and the highway could have become part of the toll-free system of Ontario roads. Or the electorate could have decided to keep the tolls in place and use them as a large and reliable source of revenue for the province – a "revenue-generating monster" as the 407 has been described – with that revenue dedicated to a specific purpose, such as funding public transit.

Instead, we will pay many more billions in ever-rising tolls until the lease ends in 2098 – two years before the end of this century, when anyone now reading this will almost certainly be dead or at least too old to celebrate.

Excerpt from *The Sport & Prey of Capitalists: How the Rich are Stealing Canada's Public Wealth*, by Linda McQuaig

UNITE AGAINST RACISM



Across the labour movement, union activists are organizing to counter the rise of racism and bigotry.

At the start of this year the Labour Council and Labour Community Services launched the “Yes It Matters” campaign, asking affiliates to take on the important work of talking about the reality of systemic racism. The plan detailed key steps to undertake the campaign. Many unions have since adopted the Charter of Inclusive Workplaces and Communities and are using it as a discussion starter with members. www.labourcouncil.ca/equity

The Migrant Rights Network has taken the fight country-wide. They have created a wealth of educational material for workshops, and joined Labour Day Parades across Canada with the slogan “Unite Against

Racism.” Former Labour Council Organizer Preethy Sivakumar made a presentation to Labour Council Delegates this summer. When the outrageous billboard ads with Maxime Bernier’s anti-immigrant message went up, people responded - and they were quickly taken down due to public pressure. We need to keep organizing against hate, and show politicians that we will not let scapegoating be used as an election strategy.

Learn more and sign the Migrant Rights Network’s pledge to Unite Against Racism at www.migrantrights.ca

Failing on Climate Change?

“As a high school teacher, I know my students get it — climate change has a human cost. Many of their families have seen the impact of extreme weather events first-hand.

When decision-makers fail to take effective action here, things will get worse everywhere.”

**WE’LL PAY
MUCH MORE LATER.**



Cartwright New Chair of the Council of Canadians



This summer Labour Council President John Cartwright was elected as the national Chairperson of the Council of Canadians, the country's largest citizen-based social justice organization.

Formed in 1985, the Council works for social, economic and environmental justice here in Canada and around the world. The Council of Canadians Honourary Chair Maude Barlow is a well-known writer, speaker and activist who has criss-crossed the globe fighting unfair trade deals and leading global efforts to protect public control and access to water.

John has been involved with the

Council since its inception, and has been a member of the Board of Directors since 2012. The Council has over 167,000 supporters and 50 registered chapters in local communities, and has been a strong ally of labour on many issues including battles against privatization of water, healthcare and hydro. If you would like to find out more about the work of the Council of Canadians or become a supporter, go to: Canadians.org

Failing on Climate Change?

"Some people think they can save money by cutting corners. But if your roof leaks you end up replacing the roof – plus the carpet and drywall below. It's the same if you don't tackle climate change – the problem just gets worse."

**WE'LL PAY
MUCH MORE LATER.**



We All Belong

Labour's Commitment to Refugees

Come out and be a part of this must attend evening of discussion focused on the contribution made by refugees in Canada, and Labour's role in welcoming new refugees. The evening includes spoken word performances, expert panel presentation, community discussion, and the opportunity to see a refugee's experience through a virtual reality simulation, courtesy of Canadian Labour Congress. Light refreshments will be served.

Expert Panel Discussion Featuring:

Hassan Yussuff, President, Canadian Labour Congress

Kara Manso, Migrant Workers Alliance for Change

Daniele Zanotti, CEO, United Way Greater Toronto

Debbie Douglas, Executive Director, Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants

Date: Wednesday, September 25, 2019

Time: 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. - Virtual reality simulation of refugee experience and light refreshment

6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. - Expert panel presentation, speeches, discussions and spoken word artist

Location: Daniels Spectrum, 585 Dundas St. E (Dundas St. E. & Sackville St.) Toronto

To join us, please RSVP online at labourcommunityservices.ca. For information, contact Olivia Liu at oliu@labourcommunityservices.ca or call (647) 893-4911.



Health & Safety Activist Awards Dinner

November 1, 2019

For details, contact
mking@labourcouncil.ca

WE ALL BELONG: Refugees Are Part Of Our Community

This month, Labour Community Services is commemorating Canada's leadership in resettling more refugees in 2018 than any other country. LCS and the Labour Council, with community and labour allies, is hosting a public forum on the topic of refugees in our midst.



Every day, people around the world are forced to flee violence and persecution by taking extraordinary risks to reach safety for their families. At a time of unprecedented global displacement, our communities are coming together in solidarity to honor the resilience and determination of refugees.

Communities, schools, businesses, faith groups and individuals from all walks of life are taking big and small steps in solidarity with refugees.

"The Refugee Next Door is a project initiated by Labour Community Services and the Toronto & York Region Labour Council to educate the public on labour's commitment to refugees, to mobilize political will and resources to address global problems, and to celebrate and reinforce achievements of humanity," said Faduma Mohamed, Executive Director of Labour Community Services.

"Unions in Canada have a proud history of standing up for justice and dignity. We shall continue to support our unions and community allies who are committed to reframing and challenging the important discourse surrounding refugees by exposing the facts and debunking myths."

From South Sudan to Uganda, Myanmar to Bangladesh, Syria to Jordan, refugees endure long, dangerous and difficult journeys.

"Many of us arrived to Canada as refugees," explains David Rapaport, advisor to the Refugee Project and an instructor at Trent University. "The conditions today are more hazardous because of legal barriers that have forced refugees to cross precarious and dangerous borders without any support."

There are many misconceptions about refugees. Here are some facts, according to the *United Nations High Commission on Refugees*:

- 1. Refugees are people forced to flee to another country because of war, climate change or persecution.** They are recognized as "refugees" because it is too dangerous for them to return home and they are protected by international law.
- 2. The majority of refugees stay close to home with most fleeing to neighboring countries.** Only 1% of refugees are ever resettled in third countries. Turkey hosts the largest number of refugees followed by Pakistan, Uganda and Lebanon.
- 3. Around the world, less than a third of people forced to flee live in refugee camps.** Most refugees are actually struggling to survive in cities and towns. This is especially true for Syrian refugees.

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