Report from Ontario Federation of Labour – Smaller Affiliates – January 23, 2018

Sisters and Brothers.

I attended the OFL Executive Board meeting January 18th as the representative of the Smaller Affiliates. The agenda for the meeting is included, along with the approved minutes from the last two Board meetings.

I’ll pass on a few quick items from today’s meeting as the official minutes will not be available until the next meeting in April.

UNIFOR Disaffiliation

As you could expect, UNIFOR’s letter to disaffiliate from the CLC was discussed. We spent about 90 minutes in a discussion of the topic. The Board representative from UNIFOR explained from their perspective that Article 4 of the CLC Constitution was not functioning properly to allow the members of Canadian locals to disaffiliate with current international unions and re-affiliate with a different union. President Chris Buckley reminded us that the CLC Constitution says you have to be in the CLC to be in the OFL and Labour Councils. He also reminded us that he is a UNIFOR member which may cause problems with his ability to remain in his role.

Despite the lengthy discussion, there was no decision to make at the meeting. Discussions are ongoing at the national level of the CLC and national unions. Chris remains President of the OFL, however he is waiting for more clarity from the CLC. If there is a change, he will endeavor to call an emergency Board meeting before change occurs.

ONA

On a more positive note, ONA has now re-affiliated with the OFL.

Convention Resolutions

The Board dealt with the outstanding resolutions from Convention. There are six categories of resolutions but I do not have them electronically. I can have them scanned and sent if people would like to see them, or, if there is a particular resolution of interest, I can advise how it was dealt with. Essentially, the resolutions that were taken to convention but were not dealt with on the floor due to time limitations were approved per the Constitution Committee recommendations. Those that were recommended for concurrence were approved.

Tim Hortons and Days of Action

We had a brief update on the Tim Horton actions. All affiliates are encouraged to participate in an action in their neighbourhood as this is a rally point to defend the gains made in Bill 148. Part of the campaign is the Bad Boss Hotline which is proving to be very effective.

There is a January 30th “Know your Rights” town hall call planned to discuss the gains from Bill 148.

Provincial Political Action Committee

We had an update of plans for the Provincial election. A Political Action Committee meeting is being held Monday to prepare more plans.

Feb 27 Rally

There is a major rally planned on Feb 27 by CUPE and UNIFOR to campaign for a minimum of four hours of care for senior’s homes. The OFL is calling on all affiliates to support this important campaign to support our seniors appropriately.

Women’s March

The Women’s March is scheduled for Jan 20 and please remember to purchase pins and support International Women’s Day.

Those are the highlights. If you have specific questions on any agenda item, please email me at SmallerAffiliates@thesociety.ca<mailto:SmallerAffiliates@thesociety.ca> or drop me a line and I will be happy to answer. Official minutes will be sent when available.

Please remember to respond to the Doodle poll for the all-affiliate meeting in April: <https://doodle.com/poll/c45zuihc4d4rqi79>

In solidarity,

Scott Travers

Vice President, OFL Smaller Affiliates Caucus President, The Society of Energy Professionals IFPTE Local 160