

SUMMIT DEMANDS GOOD JOBS AND A GREEN ECONOMY

Over 1000 participants from labour, environmental, social justice and community organizations throughout the Toronto region came together in the Good Jobs Summit at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre on November 22nd. Participants crafted strategies for creating and protecting good jobs and called on the Ontario and federal governments to commit to a good jobs economy.

The Summit featured keynote speeches about:

Good, green jobs by Dave Foster, Executive Director of the Blue-Green Alliance, a unique alliance between labour and environmental groups in the U.S.;

The growth of precarious employment and the need for good jobs to be part of the Ontario government's 'Poverty Reduction Strategy' by Deena Ladd, Coordinator of the Workers' Action Centre in Toronto, and;

Immigrant workers and economic justice by María Elena Durazo, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor and a National Co-Chair for President-elect Barack Obama's Presidential Campaign.

A **Declaration on Good Jobs For All** was endorsed by the Summit, and will be taken to unions, community organizations and elected representatives for further endorsement.

"Success in the 21st century economy is going to be measured by our ability to provide environmentally friendly energy, products and services," said John Cartwright, President of the Toronto & York Region Labour Council. "With the global pressures on manufacturing, we desperately need a plan to keep good jobs in the Toronto area. Renewable energy, fuel efficient vehicles and finding our place in the green economy is vital to our future prosperity."

"Some communities have been experiencing economic crisis for years, well before the 'global credit crisis' made headlines," said Good Jobs Coalition Co-chair Tam Goossen. "Ontario's 'poverty reduction strategy' must include a plan for good jobs if it's going to be effective."

Participants at the summit took part in six themed workshops about:

Skills, Training and Professions; Precarious Work; Community and Economic Development; Immigration Policy and Labour; and Employment Equity and Public Services.

The Good Jobs Coalition, comprised of more than 35 organizations, assembled earlier this year to begin a focused dialogue on how to improve the living and working conditions in Canada's largest urban centre.

www.goodjobscoalition.ca