

## GET OUT THE VOTE!

October 2010

The 2010 municipal election will be a wild race right until polls close on October 25<sup>th</sup>. There is a lot at stake. Does Toronto continue building on its strengths and investing in its public services? Or are we at risk of repeating the Mike Harris “Common Sense Revolution” with all the turmoil and disruption that caused? The Mayor’s race is just one part of that equation – there are nine open city council seats which will decide the balance of power in Toronto for the next four years.

In our school boards as well, there are clear choices to make about the kind of leadership we need for an education system that gives every student what they need to succeed. And in York Region, the ongoing issues of growth, services and accountability are being fought out in every municipality. All good reasons to make sure that everyone gets out and votes!

The Labour movement is engaged in a number of ways in this 2010 election:

1. Labour Council has endorsed a wide variety of candidates for city councils and school boards. The list, contact numbers and map are on our website at [labourcouncil.ca](http://labourcouncil.ca). As well, the lists from the Durham Region and Brampton/Mississauga Labour Councils are also provided.
2. The Good Jobs for All coalition has been leading a campaign called Public Services for All, which links the role of public services and the quality of life in our communities. It focuses on four key areas – transit, good jobs, protecting public assets and services for families and children.
3. The OneToronto campaign aims to engage and motivate voters to demand that candidates : focus on facts not fury, protect what is great about this city, and work for a Toronto that includes everyone. OneToronto is a network of environmental, arts, student, labour and social justice groups representing hundreds of thousands of Torontonians.

Together, these efforts will make a difference to the outcome. A lot of very powerful and wealthy people want Canada’s largest city to start wholesale privatization, outsourcing, and to abolish its Canadian procurement or fair wage policies. All but one of the candidates for mayor promise massive cuts to city jobs. The only mayoralty candidate who is committed to a platform of economic justice and respecting front line workers is Joe Pantalone – and that is why he is labour’s choice for Mayor.

But we cannot deny the impact of the Rob Ford brand on how people view this election. In many suburban neighbourhoods, he has been able to define the issues. That is why we need to expose the agenda of this right-wing millionaire and defuse the anger he is stoking.

Voting day is Monday October 25<sup>th</sup>. We need everyone to take family, friends, and neighbours to the polls. Last election we lost one seat by just 20 votes. We can’t afford for that to happen again – this time every single vote counts as never before.

The Executive Board recommends that:

1. Labour Council urge every affiliate to mobilize and fully engage their memberships in this vital effort that will determine the political direction of Canada’s largest city for years to come.
2. Every union provide a link to the OneToronto campaign on their website and circulate the information to their activists.
3. Every union undertake a comprehensive Get Out The Vote effort with their members for the advance polling days as well as election day October 25<sup>th</sup>.