

WORKERS OF COLOUR / ABORIGINAL WORKERS CONFERENCE

Conference draws capacity crowd for second year



The Toronto & York Region Labour Council held its second Workers of Colour/Aboriginal Conference on May 8th at the OFL Building. Over two hundred delegates plus observers, community members, workshop and round table facilitators attended the conference.

The Conference was organized on the themes Building Power for Our Communities, Organizing the Unorganized and Building Labour Leadership. These themes were illustrated and critically analyzed by our panelists Zanana Akande, President, Urban Alliance on Race Relations, David Onyalo, National Director, Anti-Racism and Human Rights Department CLC and Deena Ladd, Toronto Organization for Fair Employment. Delegates then went to in- depth roundtable discussions. Workshop presentations in the afternoon developed the themes further.

The enthusiasm of delegates and workshops facilitators in these discussions were amazing. Delegates were keenly interested and strongly supported our themes. They made comprehensive and strong suggestions in their discussions for our members, locals, unions and Labour Council to put our themes into actions. These suggestions will be compiled into a Report on the Conference and distributed to all delegates and our affiliates .

The conference also featured a preview of the video “Breaking Barriers, Linking Struggles” which tells of three decades of anti-racist and equity struggles by labour in Toronto. We heard updates on the CINTAS organizing campaign by UNITE and passionate closing remarks by Hassan Yussuff, Secretary-Treasurer, of the Canadian Labour Congress.

We wish to thank for all the hard work, support and contribution of delegates, facilitators and recorders, panelists, our affiliates and staff in making the conference a success.

Delegates concentrate on the issues at hand



UNITE Organizer Joseph Benjamin, makes a presentation to the delegates about the continent-wide campaign to organize CINTAS



From left to right: Sonia Reynolds, SEIU Local 1.0n and Council Treasurer, Jenny Ahn, President, CAW Local 40 and Council Executive Board Member. Panelists David Onyolo, Director, CLC Human Rights , Zanana Akande, President, Urban Alliance on Race Relations, and Deena Ladd, Toronto Organizing for Fair Employment

