

Ontario Division Conference, May 24 – 28 2016

During my week at OD I was involved in a few things outside of the convention hall, as well as taking part in what was happening inside.

On arrival Tuesday, I took part in the Social Services caucus. The bulk of the meeting was discussing which potential by-law changes were being covered by other areas, and which were deemed most important to make sure they would be heard first when it came our turn to pitch.

I followed the information regarding the Faceless Doll Project, put together by the Aboriginal council, the Women's Committee, and the OUWCC. The Project was put out for anyone to create their own faceless doll and help honour the memory of missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls in Canada. This project took place everyday and was successful in creating a powerful display. There was also a Smudge performed on Friday morning to open the Aboriginal Caucus, which I attended before the convention.

Some of the highlights of the Conference were:

Sandy Hudson spoke on racism, police brutality/murders, tent city, the fight against privatization, and pay inequity of women (@.72/1.00\$) and racialized women (.56/1.00\$)

\$40,800 was raised in effort to help Black Lives Matter (Sandy Hudson's group)

\$44k+ was raised for Fort McMurray

Andrea Horvath (NDP Leader) spoke on healthcare issues

Chris Buckley (OFL President) spoke on the fight against HydroOne sale, in favour of social unionism, rebuilding the OFL, and the "make it fair" campaign (not just for unionized workers)

Candace Rennick spoke about the "time to care" campaign, better hours and more stability for part time and irregular workers.

Sue McIntyre spoke on workplace violence. She's been fired for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time for standing up against poor/unsafe/hazardous conditions in the workplace. CUPE is currently working on reinstatement of Sue. She is hailed as a warrior for her ongoing/untiring fight for safety

Avi Lewis spoke on climate crisis, privatization, hydro one, free trade and austerity.

At 3:43 on Friday, there was a fire alarm. It was said that this was likely a political stand against the childcare issues (high cost of childcare, shortage of licensed/reputable sites) and for \$15/day childcare costs. The fire was alerted for floor 26, where the CUPE childcare was located.

The highest reported attendance was on Friday, with just over 1300. This included local delegates, council delegates, alternates, officers, staff, reps, fraternal delegates and guests.