

2012 Ontario Division Conference

**May 23-26, 2012-05-28
Windsor Casino, Windsor**

First, I would like to thank the Union for allowing me to attend the 2012 Ontario Division Conference. What a great experience! The amount of delegates, exhibitors and overall feeling in the room was quite exciting and found the whole process very interesting.

I met some new contacts, congratulated one of our nearby Local's in obtaining their very first contract (UofG Library workers), helped vote in the next OD Executive and watched as Fred Hahn was acclaimed as President (well done!!). What an encouraging speaker to listen to – that man can really bring out the motivation in people. Paul Moist also spoke at length in regards to building and strengthening our solidarity.

On one particular day, Fred got the troops fired up for a Rally outside the casino where the press and local Union top-dogs such as Sid Ryan were present as well. Later that day, there was also a few quite moving discussions about the Humane Society workers, the Personal Support Workers, Nursing Home Staff as well as a speaker from the Quebec “Students Rising Together” Lise; who passionately presented the students efforts to fight back against rising tuition fees and how they were being treated. This set off quite a few Unions to donate what they could towards the cause. The end result was just shy of \$50K being raised as well as a motion to approach CUPE National in matching the funds raised.

The only downfall was the amount of chatting that continuously took place and the amount of delegates that left the conference on the last day, causing a lack of quorum and thereby, closing the conference early.

I appreciated the opportunity and once again thank the Union,

Yours in solidarity,
Marg Lemoine