

## **Ontario Division Conference**

**May 30 to June 2, 2018**

**Toronto Sheraton, Toronto**

I would like to thank the membership for allowing me to attend the Ontario Division Conference in Toronto with the theme of “Be Bold, Be Brave, Demand Better”. Turnout was great with a total attendance of 1,230. All Resolutions and Amendments were completed; although not necessarily all carried.

Some highlights were:

- Elections which saw most of the Executive return such as Fred Hahn (President), Candace Rennick (Treasurer), Michael Hurley (1<sup>st</sup> VP), Yolanda McLean (2<sup>nd</sup> VP), Eddie Perrera (3<sup>rd</sup> VP), Tiffany Balducci (4<sup>th</sup> VP) and 6 Members at Large: Fred Shilson, Dave Smith, Emmanuel Ensah, Tracey St. Aubin, Brittany Nisbett and Patrick Hannon. A Trustee was also elected – Oral Riesing
- Keynote Speaker: Hamilton Councillor Matthew Green was an amazing speaker full of promise, energy and charisma.
- There were 2 rallies very well attended; the first “Demanding Better” as well as the Friday rally pertaining to “Injured Workers”
- My favourite presentation was the camp kids – the largest group to date presented a video on how Management viewed “those union workers and their issues”
- Gord pledged \$50 on behalf of the CWO for a sister who was a caregiver to her niece. Unfortunately, there were previous issues surrounding the child and she took her life by overdosing the night before around 10:30pm while the Member was at the conference. A total of \$7,239 was collected by passing the hat around.

The general theme of the Resolutions seemed to mostly cater to “Racialized” workers and how to combat the issue. Many heated debates and contradictions were heard such as how Canada caused the war in Syria, how whites are elitists and need to step up and end racism on all levels, calls for the Ombudsperson to step in on occasion; even one member voicing his opinion on how women should have their abortion rights taken away. This was not met with complacency.

The Conference wrapped up with all business being concluded at approximately 11am.

Yours in solidarity,

Marg Lemoine

*Secretary, Central Western Ontario District Council*