

## Environmental Policy Resolutions from the 2019 Ontario Federation of Labour Convention

### *88. Environmental Justice for Racialized Low-Income and Indigenous Ontarians*

**Submitted by:** OFL Workers of Colour Committee

**WHEREAS** governments have been complicit in practices that create inequalities

within human populations related to race in poor and disadvantaged communities;

**WHEREAS** it has been noted that Canada's First Nations suffer from the contamination of its drinking water and suffer a legacy of deplorable environmental living conditions; and

**WHEREAS** racial minorities are found to live closer to sources of environmental pollution such as waste disposal sites, industrial pollution, than non-racial minorities.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the OFL call on the government of Ontario and other stakeholders to ensure that the policy-making process does not distribute land uses in a manner that disproportionately impacts minority and poor communities because of distortions arising from race and class disempowerment.

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the OFL call on all levels of government to work with Indigenous communities to ensure the security of clean safe drinking water.

(Word count: 132)

POLICY RESOLUTIONS 2019 15<sup>TH</sup> BIENNIAL CONVENTION // **88**

// POLICY RESOLUTIONS

### *89. Grassy Narrows Support*

**Submitted by:** OSSTF

**WHEREAS** the people of Asubpeeschoseewagong First Nation (Grassy Narrows First Nation) continue to experience mercury poisoning in their water from the Dryden Chemical Company;

**WHEREAS** the Federal and Provincial governments have failed to address the historic and ongoing devastating medical and environmental impact of this poisoning; and

**WHEREAS** it is the responsibility of the governments of this land to protect their people and their natural environments.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the OFL call on the Federal and Provincial governments to fully and permanently address the eradication of all mercury from the land and water systems on the Grassy Narrows First Nation.

(Word count: 95)

*116. Building Public Support for Action on the Climate Emergency*

**Submitted by:** OFL Environment and Green Jobs Committee

**WHEREAS** the state of the world's climate has reached a crisis;

**WHEREAS** climate change including fires, floods, storms and other extreme climate events are occurring at a rate faster than had been predicted;

**WHEREAS** governments have at best paid lip service to this climate emergency; and **WHEREAS** the world's youth have been leaders in the struggle to see immediate and meaningful actions taken on the climate emergency.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the OFL honour the leadership of the youth-led environmental movements and help them build broad public support in mobilizing for immediate actions and encourage the affiliates to do the same.

(Word count: 94)

POLICY RESOLUTIONS 2019 15<sup>TH</sup> BIENNIAL CONVENTION // **116**

// POLICY RESOLUTION

*117. The Climate Emergency*

**Submitted by:** OFL Environment and Green Jobs Committee; the Toronto & York

Region Labour Council; Hamilton & District Labour Council

**WHEREAS** the climate emergency is real;

**WHEREAS** to ensure human survival we must challenge the powerful corporate interests that drive the current unsustainable economic model and seek to sabotage effective climate action; and

**WHEREAS** labour we must show the opportunities to build prosperity and justice for all.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the OFL will reach out to educate and engage every affiliate on labour's role in the fight for climate justice, including winning contract language on climate, establishing joint union-management environment committees to reduce

workplace emissions, and asking employers to climate-proof their work against floods, fires, and other extreme climate events.

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the OFL will urge every affiliate to mobilize their members to oppose the destructive climate policies of the Ford Conservatives, and partner with racial justice organizations to help deepen the analysis around equity and Just Transition within discussions on climate action.

(Word count: 137)

117 // POLICY RESOLUTIONS 2019

*118. Climate Action*

**Submitted by:** CUPE Ontario; Toronto & York Region Labour Council; CUPE Local

3902; CUPE Local 1281; CUPE Local 1334

**THE OFL WILL:**

1. Convene a Climate Emergency working group composed of interested affiliates within 3 months of convention tasking it with providing recommendations for immediate steps to be taken by the OFL to counter the inaction by the Ford Conservatives to combat climate disruption.
2. Provide the working group 3 months to advise the OFL board on options for Federation action.

**BECAUSE:**

- The Ford Conservatives scrapped existing climate change regulations and according to Environmental Defense won't be able to achieve even its own (scaled back) emission reduction targets.
- Ford's Government has cut the pace of electric vehicle sales, cancelled windfarm and reforestation seedling programs, delayed a push to lower carbon emissions and ignored calls for scaling back the use of fossil fuels.
- Our entire planet is now at risk, with the most catastrophic effects predicted to fall disproportionately on the most vulnerable, including the working poor.

(Word count: 143)

POLICY RESOLUTIONS 2019 15<sup>TH</sup> BIENNIAL CONVENTION // **118**