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ONE FOR ALL

www.d14.osstf.ca



SPECIAL FEDERAL ELECTION BULLETIN

The Federal Election is almost here and we at the District Office want to take some time (and newsletter space) to reach out to the Membership and encourage everyone to make their vote count. We know that, as a labour organization, the Federal Election can have a profound effect on the workers across the country. Unions and labour organizations believe in the principle that everyone deserves equal economic, political and social rights and opportunities. Unions have fought for, and attained fair living and working conditions for all Canadians, no matter their social status, gender, gender identity, age, race, sexual orientation, ability, or work status.

Social justice and progress for equity are slow going, but they are often due to the work of labour organizations, including OSSTF. More and more we see unions and labour workers being attacked by politicians for being “Fat Cat Union Thugs” when in reality, it is thanks in great part to the efforts of unions, that we have been able to hold on to the hard won rights for all Canadians.

The Federal Election this year has a number of hot-button items that are working as smoke-screens for the real issues that will shape the Canada of the future. For all members of the Canadian society to live in a just, caring, and open land, we must all take action to ensure that those who are making the decisions on our behalf

are doing so with a vision that helps all Canadians.

It isn't OK to give up. It isn't OK to forget the hard-fought battles of the past. It isn't OK to ignore certain populations. And it isn't OK to ignore the possibility for change that lies in front of us. The history of fighting for social justice is a proud one in Canada - It was thanks to the forward thinking of Tommy Douglas, who served in politics from 1944 to 1979, that Canadians benefit from universal health care. He believed that all Canadians deserve equal rights and opportunities and it is this belief that has defined us as Canadians for many years.

OSSTF won't tell its members how to vote, we know it's a personal choice for us all; however, as an organization, we are endorsing NDP candidates or the Liberal candidate in ridings where the NDP candidate is not likely to beat the Conservatives.

October 19th is coming quickly, and we hope every one of D14's members will take action and make their vote count. We encourage everyone to do what they can this election: donate to a labour-friendly party, canvass for a local candidate who embraces values that lead to a more equitable Canada, help a neighbour get to the polling station, and stand up and insist on a Canadian government of which we can be proud.



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NEW RIDINGS, NEW FACES

by Steve Helleiner (Clarke)

The Fair Elections Act was rammed through by the Conservatives in 2014. Along with limiting access to voting, opening up election spending limits, and strangling unions' abilities to support political parties, it also changed many of the riding boundaries across the country, including those south of Peterborough. Parts of southern Peterborough County were joined to the eastern part of Clarington and all of Northumberland County to form the new riding of Northumberland-Peterborough South. The eastern section of the old riding – Quinte West, was broken off and used to create a new riding outside of our District's area. The old Durham riding has shrunk and now encompasses only Bowmanville and Courtice in our District.

There are four main candidates running in the south. Andrew Moulton is a new face, as the long-time Conservative MP Rick Norlock has stepped down. This has opened up the riding to the winds of change and Kim Rudd is taking advantage of the potential as the Liberal Candidate. Rudd is a familiar figure in Northumberland circles as both a businesswoman and as a volunteer for numerous community projects. Russ Christianson has run in previous campaigns but has never finished better than third as the NDP Candidate. Patricia Sinnott, who is running for the Green Party of Canada, is a retired health care worker who has been involved in local politics since 2010.



Northumberland has traditionally voted either Liberal or Conservative and they tend to support incumbent candidates. Given the current climate for change and the lack of an incumbent, this riding could go to any of the main candidates. Strategic voting may be the only way to prevent a Conservative victory here.

Corrina Traill is the Liberal candidate in the Durham riding (Bowmanville and Courtice). She is an independent local lawyer and a successful municipal councillor. She faces a serious uphill battle, taking on the current Minister of Veteran Affairs, Erin O'Toole. O'Toole won the riding for the Conservatives by a significant amount in his by-election and has widespread name recognition as his father was the local MPP for almost 20 years. Rounding out the candidates in this riding is NDP, Derek Spence, who will be fighting hard against the other two candidates.

These ridings in the south of the District 14 catchment area are all going to be up for grabs and are prime examples of how every vote matters.

Dear Jimmy

Dear Jimmy:

I feel so passionate about Canada and the current Federal Election that I'd like to run in the next Election. Am I able to take a Leave of Absence to run in an election or will I need to quit? Will you vote for me?

“Teresa-in-2019”

Hey Teresa,

Great questions! It's fantastic to see you're so engaged. I hope all members get out and vote in this Election, and then come out to support you in 2019.

There are no provisions in the Collective Agreement for you to take a leave to campaign or hold public office. However, the Employer does have an HR Policy to cover your scenario. If you go to the board website and look for Policy HR-6.1.2 “LEAVE OF ABSENCE – PUBLIC OFFICE AND POLITICAL CONVENTIONS” you'll get all the details there. Essentially, our employer should support your taking an unpaid Leave of Absence in this situation.

Can't say I'll vote for you yet – need to know your stance on Web-Based-Collective-Agreement-Advice Columnists first.

Good luck!

-Jimmy

WHY I AM VOTING NDP

by Dave Warda (KCVI)

I am among the 66% of Canadian voters, and possibly more who could never vote for Stephen Harper. We are a grand majority of Canadians, who may agree about who we don't want, but remain undecided about who or what we do want. Perhaps there has never been any doubt about where I would cast my vote, but the extended length of this campaign, the track record of the Opposition since 2011, and my own personal values have made it impossible for me to waver to the tug of strategic voting. All Canadians heading into the ballot box still have many choices. We can spoil our ballots, vote for a lost cause, vote strategically against a Conservative candidate, or we can choose to vote FOR something different

The older we get, the harder it is not to be cynical about politics and politicians. I know that there are many factors which lead to major policies, laws, and leadership decisions. Many of us have not paid too much attention to this "epic" 7 week campaign. However, it has offered all of us who have busy lives an opportunity to look carefully at all the candidates, leaders, parties, and platforms. We have seen them out in our community, in partisan advertisements, and in a number of very real debates. We have been exposed to numerous opinion polls, analyses, and social media commentary. This extensive campaign has solidified my support for the NDP which has been growing since 2011.

As a bit of traditionalist when it comes to following Canadian federal politics, I have always respected the office of the Opposition. Her Majesty's loyal opposition plays a critical role in a healthy democracy, and without one, the parliamentary system may just as well be a dictatorship. We need a committed force to question the government and hold them to account. Thomas Mulcair is following in the footsteps of many great Canadian Prime Ministers who served as Leaders of the Opposition. Since 2012, he and the NDP shadow cabinet have dogged the Prime Minister and the rest of the Conservatives. He has been our voice in parliament, demanding that the government provide answers to tough questions. It is his job to shine a light on the workings of a government that has lost its way, and he has delivered: holding the Harper Cons' feet to the fire on election fraud, their refusal to call an inquiry into missing and murdered women, challenging unconstitutional legislation, and let's not forget the

ongoing fiasco of Mike Duffy. Harper has kept Mulcair very busy, and I believe he has been up to the job. It is my firm opinion that Thomas Mulcair has proven where he stands on many issues, and has served us very well as the leader of the Opposition. However, I don't just admire his feisty leadership, I believe he has proven that he will work to restore what Canadians truly value.

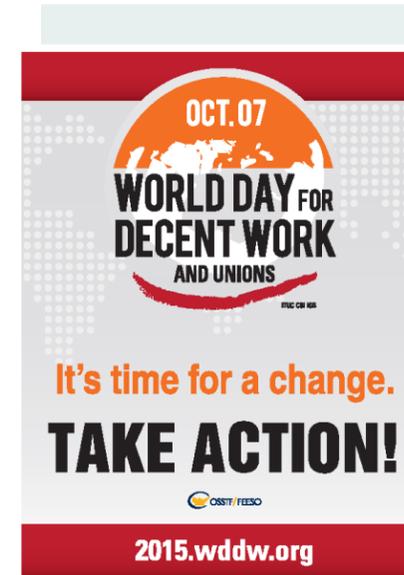
As Canadians we deserve to be proud of our country. We need to resurrect our reputation in the international community as a force for good, and a caring country who will intervene, reduce tensions in hot spots, and wherever possible prevent things from leading to violence. We need to return to being a leader in our generosity, not trail at the bottom of the G7. When there are refugees with nowhere to go I want a government who stands up and welcomes them as potential citizens, not deem them as possible terrorists.

We deserve a government which lives within its means, but one with enough spine to expect that corporations pay their fair share. Corporations make profits in this country. We pay our tax bill, they should pay theirs. The wealthiest Canadians who find loopholes and tax havens must be brought to justice.

Most of all, we deserve a government committed to equality and equalization. We must reach out and protect and support the vulnerable people and commit to an inclusive society. NDP campaign promises to provide subsidized day care, better pensions, a minimum wage, and environmental protection demonstrate a vision for a better Canada.

In the local Peterborough riding, where I live, the best candidate IS the NDP candidate, Dave Nickle. He and the NDP slate across the country deserve our votes as they are the ones to bring Canada back to its proud past.

The casting of a ballot should be a hopeful act. When I cast my vote October 19th I want to cast it with the hope it will lead to a better Canada. I want to set aside my cynicism and hope that the candidate, and party of my choosing share the same core values that I have. Most of all they must be ready and committed to reversing the damage of the Conservative legacy under Harper.



OCT. 07
WORLD DAY FOR
DECENT WORK
AND UNIONS
It's time for a change.
TAKE ACTION!
2015.wddw.org

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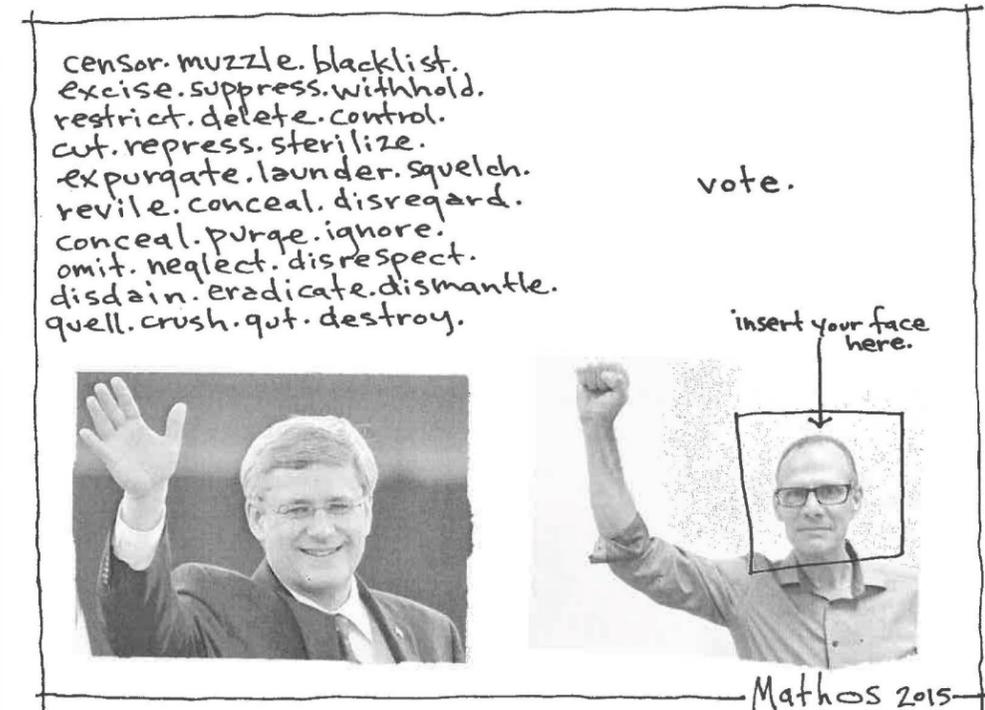
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A MATHOS MOMENT



NOTICE

OSSTF Provincial Office will be conducting a series of recorded call-outs from President Paul Elliott to members across the province. The calls are to highlight the importance of voting.

OSSTF/FEESO supports the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) "Better Choice" campaign to bring four significant issues to all Canadians to the forefront of the election campaign. Those issues are:

Retirement Security
Health Care
Child Care
Good Jobs

Find out more information about the CLC Better Choice campaign by visiting their website. You can also sign up to receive information from the CLC to learn more about important issues to working Canadians.

www.betterchoice.ca