



SOLIDARITY PRIDE
ONTARIO FEDERATION OF LABOUR

out@work2012

Securing health, safety, jobs and justice for LGBTQ workers

May 10, 2012

519 Church Street Community Centre

May 11-12, 2012

Victoria College U of T

91 Charles Street West (rear), Toronto, Ontario

March 2012

TO: ALL AFFILIATES

Greetings:

CONFERENCE CALL

The Ontario Federation of Labour will hold a Solidarity and Pride conference in Toronto May 10-12, 2012. The conference opening will be held at 519 Church Street Community Centre, which serves as the political and spiritual hub of the LGBTQ in Toronto. For the remaining two days, the conference will take place at U of T Victoria College.

out@work2012 will be the 1st LGBTQ workers gathering for a decade and the second in the OFL's history. It is much anticipated and long overdue. It has been designed to assist a diverse range of union participants to share, learn, empower, support and mobilize LGBTQ members in our workplaces across Ontario.

out@work2012 comes at a time when a multitude of essential union rights and supports for poorly-housed LGBTQ retirees, dangerously under-employed 2-Spirited & trans- workers and when other uniquely marginalized and racialized LGBTQ workers across Ontario are feeling the crunch of bad public policy thanks to profit-driven neo-liberal ideology.

The labour movement can be proud of our work to ensure full legal rights for the LGBTQ workers and their families. We fought for collective bargaining rights and stood with our members through legal battles in achieving legislative equality. We have made significant gains; however, the reality is that for many LGBTQ workers there remains the threat of discrimination both in the workplace and in society.

Conference Objectives:

- Establish a learning environment rather than an instructional dynamic. The skills and resources will be drawn from activists in our affiliates, conference delegates and experts within our larger community.
- Facilitation will be provided by a team of affiliate-sponsored workshop leaders which has been pre-briefed for strategic planning sessions.
- Designed agenda, clear goals will be adopted to create conference momentum.
- We will move from sharing knowledge and concrete skills-building on Day One to the development of short and long term strategic planning through Day Two.
- An explicit agenda for all participants designed to achieve realistic outcomes for the OFL and our affiliates.
- Incorporated networking and opportunities for self-organized training, union caucuses and chance encounters during breakfast, lunch and on adjournment.

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out@work2012 conference focus will assist each of a wide range of union participants to share, learn and achieve the conference goal by increasing their understanding and empowering each of us to mobilizes LGBTQ members in our workplaces and unions across Ontario.

See attached Learning Circle themes and description.

The conference registration fee is \$140 (includes lunch Friday, May 11). Cheques should be made payable to **“OFL 2012 Solidarity & Pride Conference”** and must be **received by May 4, 2012**. We expect space will be limited and registration will be accepted on a first-come first-registered basis. To ensure seating of your delegate(s), please mail registration and accompanying cheque as soon as possible.

Child care will be provided. However, to confirm arrangements, the attached **Child Care Registration Form must be completed and returned by April 30, 2012**.

Accommodation can be provided for delegates with disabilities if advance notice is received. If services are needed, please complete and return the attached **Personal Assistance Request Form by April 10, 2012**.

All OFL events are **smoke free**.

Allergy Alert: Increasingly, workers are becoming sensitized to chemicals in the environment. For many workers, attending conferences and being exposed to perfumes and other strong scents can pose a serious health risk. Therefore, we ask that conference participants refrain from use of scented products.

The Federation has reserved a block of rooms at **Victoria University Residences at a cost of \$60 single or \$82 double (breakfast included), plus 18% HST tax**. To receive this rate, your delegate must book room(s) by **March 29, 2012**. Please complete the attached **Victoria University Accommodations Form and return to Victoria University by fax 416-813-4077 or e-mail accom.victoria@utoronto.ca**. After March 29, please call 416-585-4524 to check on availability of rooms.

Additional information, forms or register may be obtained from the OFL website www.ofl.ca or contact us directly by calling Sue Fratric at 416-443-7679, 1-800-668-9138 or e-mail sfratric@ofl.ca, or contact OFL staff person Carrol Anne Sceviour at 416-606-5046.

In Solidarity,



NANCY HUTCHISON
Secretary-Treasurer

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- OFL Officers, OFL Staff
 - OFL Executive Board and Council
 - OFL Aboriginal Circle
 - OFL Human Rights Committee
 - OFL Persons with a Disability Committee
 - OFL Women's Committee
 - OFL Workers of Colour Committee
 - OFL Workers Under 30 Committee