

May, 2008

TO: ALL AFFILIATES

**CONFERENCE CALL**  
**ONTARIO FEDERATION OF LABOUR WOMEN'S CONFERENCE**  
**SHAPING THE AGENDA: WOMEN'S POLITICAL ACTION**  
**SHERATON CENTRE HOTEL, TORONTO, ON**  
**OCTOBER 5-7, 2008**

Greetings:

The Ontario Federation of Labour will hold a women's conference in Toronto October 5-7, 2008 at the Sheraton Centre Hotel, 123 Queen Street West, Toronto. The conference will begin Sunday afternoon October 5<sup>th</sup> and wrap up with a Queen's Park MPP lobby in support of union card certification legislation on Tuesday October 7<sup>th</sup>.

The theme of the conference is ***Shaping The Agenda: Women's Political Action***. Union women know that organizing and mobilizing our sisters will ensure our voices are heard and it is the best way to advance our vision of equality and building a just society.

Conference objectives are:

- To encourage a greater participation of women in political action and to strengthen links between union and community women.
- To provide skills on issues relating to political action.
- To provide a pro-active perspective on organizing and mobilizing women in our unions and communities.
- To build a campaign in support of working women's right to unionize - card certification legislation.

The conference will begin on Sunday with an afternoon plenary session with a panel discussion *Strategies for Action*. The evening session will include a keynote speaker addressing *Power, Politics, Participation* and conference social.

All day Monday there will be skill-building workshops to develop organizing skills and strategies on a local and community level.

*... over, please*

At the Monday evening plenary session, participants will review lobby materials and meet with their lobby teams.

On Tuesday, participants will spend the day at Queen's Park lobbying individual MPPs on the importance of their support of union card certification and how important it is to working women's right to a union.

Attached is the conference Registration Form. Please ensure your participant(s) riding or home postal code section is completed. This will allow us to form lobby teams that will meet with their MPP.

The conference registration fee will be \$130 and cheques should be made payable to the "**OFL 2008 Women's Conference**" and must be received before September 22, 2008. We expect space will be limited and registrations 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 September 15, 2008.

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 September 2, 2008.

The conference will be 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 arranged for a block of rooms to be reserved at a cost of \$199 plus tax per night. To book your hotel room please contact Christina Dawson at W.E.Travel, [Christine@wetravel.net](mailto:Christine@wetravel.net) or Nora Mackie [nora@wetravel.net](mailto:nora@wetravel.net). You may also call toll free to 1.888.676.7747 before September 15, 2008, and identify your delegate(s) as attending the Ontario Federation of Labour's conference.

Additional information and Registration Forms may be obtained from the OFL website at [www.ofl.ca](http://www.ofl.ca) or by contacting Kathy Neumann at the OFL 416.443.7674 or toll free at 1.800.668.9138 Ext. 674.

In solidarity,

Irene Harris  
Secretary-Treasurer

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Attachments

c: OFL Women's Committee