



WAYNE SAMUELSON
President
IRENE HARRIS
Secretary - Treasurer
TERRY DOWNEY
Executive Vice-President



December, 2006

TO: ALL AFFILIATES

Greetings:

**SISTERS BUILDING THE FUTURE
WOMEN IN TRADES & NON-TRADITIONAL JOBS CONFERENCE
FRIDAY, MARCH 2 - SATURDAY MARCH 3, 2007**

**OFL Auditorium, 15 Gervais Drive (Lobby Level)
(Don Mills & Eglinton)**

Sisters Building the Future Conference is co-sponsored by the Ontario Federation of Labour, the Provincial Building & Construction Trades Council of Ontario and the Sisters in Trades Committee of the Toronto & York Region Labour Council. The conference is scheduled for Friday evening, March 2 and Saturday, March 3, 2007.

The conference is designed to focus on barriers and solutions to recruitment and retention of women into trades and non-traditional jobs. Trades persons include industrial and construction trades. Non-traditional occupations are those in which women comprise 25 percent or less of total employed, such as meat cutters, drivers, security guards, transit operators, parts persons, painting workers, highway maintenance workers, custodians, assembly line workers, shippers/receivers, labourers, firefighters and couriers. The goals of the conference are:

- to celebrate the accomplishments of women in trades and non-traditional work;
- to identify barriers to recruitment and retention of women in non-traditional sectors and develop solutions;
- to build support and solidarity networks;
- to retain and increase representation of women in trades and non-traditional jobs; and
- to encourage women's participation in their unions.

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A conference registration form is enclosed. The conference fee is \$50.00. Please send the completed form together with your cheque payable to "OFL Women In Trades & Non-Traditional Jobs Conference." **Please note that the deadline for conference registration is February 23, 2007.** We expect space will be limited and registrations will be accepted on a first-come first-served basis.

Conference participants are responsible for making their own hotel arrangements. The Crowne Plaza Hotel has reserved a block of rooms for us at \$125.00 plus tax per night until February 15, 2007, after which they will be placed back into their general inventory. To book a room please call (416) 449.4111 and state that you are with the OFL.

Child Care

It is OFL policy that we will provide child care services if more than ten children are registered for this service. **The deadline for the child care registration is February 16**, as we must make these arrangements separately with the child care provider. We have enclosed a Child Care Registration Form.

Accommodation

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 **February 1, 2007**.

Allergy Alert

As is OFL policy, this conference will be scent free to ensure the active involvement of those with chemical sensitivity.

Additional information and registration forms may be obtained from the OFL website at www.ofl.ca or by contacting Sylvia Stewart at (416) 443.7674 or toll free at 1.800.668.9138.

In solidarity,

Irene Harris
Secretary-Treasurer
Ontario Federation of Labour

Patrick J. Dillon
Business Manager/Secretary-
Treasurer, Provincial Building
& Construction Trades Council
of Ontario

John Cartwright
President
Toronto & York Region
Labour Council



**SISTERS BUILDING THE FUTURE
WOMEN IN TRADES & NON-TRADITIONAL JOBS CONFERENCE
MARCH 2-3, 2007**

OFL AUDITORIUM, 15 GERVAIS DRIVE (LOBBY LEVEL)

DRAFT AGENDA

Friday, March 2 – Evening, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Opening Session

Conference Co-chairs Irene Harris, Secretary Treasurer, Ontario Federation of Labour
Phyllis Gallimore, Carpenters & Allied Workers Local 27, Chairperson, Sisters In Trades Committee

Welcome Ontario Federation of Labour
Provincial Building & Construction Trades Council of Ontario
Toronto & York Region Labour Council

Speaker *Surviving and Thriving: Setting the Stage*
Deirdre Gallagher, Public Service Alliance of Canada, Staff
Former staff USW, OFL Workers Health & Safety Centre and member of Organized Working Women

Social Wine & Cheese

Saturday, March 3 – 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Opening Plenary 9:00 am – 10:30 am

Speaker: Barb Byers, Executive Vice-President, CLC
Canadian/International overview of women working in the trades & non-traditional jobs

Panel Sisters Working In the Trades
Sisters Working In Non-Traditional Jobs
Discussion

Break 10:30 am – 10:45 am

Workshop Discussion Groups 10:45 am – 12:30 pm

Participants will identify barriers to recruitment and retention of women working in the trades and non-traditional jobs. Participants will discuss such issues as:

- Apprenticeship/Training
- Health & Safety/Workers' Compensation
- Respect on the Job
- Building Solidarity & Networks within our Unions
- Balancing Work & Life

Lunch 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm (Provided)

Panel 1:30 pm - 2:00 p.m.

Legislative representatives from the Liberal, Conservative and New Democratic Parties have been invited to present their Party's actions and policies on ensuring recruitment and retention of women into trades and non-traditional jobs.

Workshop Discussion Group Continues 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

This session will focus on solutions and recommendations.

Break 3:30 pm - 3:45 pm

Closing Plenary 3:45 pm – 5:00 pm

Report Back/Recommendations

Note: Non-traditional occupations are those in which women comprise 25 percent or less of total employed, such as meat cutters, drivers, security guards, transit operators, parts persons, painting workers, highway maintenance workers, custodians, assembly line workers, shippers/receivers, labourers, firefighters and couriers.

