

December 18, 2006



TO: OFL AFFILIATES

Greetings:

EDUCATIONALS ON ELECTORAL REFORM

As you know, the provincial government has established a Citizen's Assembly that is charged with recommending whether or not to hold a referendum on our voting system. The Assembly is currently looking at various voting systems around the world, and from November 20, 2006 to January 26, 2007, is hearing deputations from the public.

By May 15, 2007, the Citizen's Assembly will make its recommendation to the government. If it recommends a new voting system, it will go to a referendum on election day, October 4, 2007. It is obvious from this timing that there will be virtually no time for any public education on a matter that could change the political landscape in this province for the future. And the media are giving the process almost no attention whatsoever.

The OFL Electoral Reform working group has proposed holding a series of educationals around the province in February to bring our members up to speed on this issue. In some cities these educationals will be held adjacent to the local labour council's monthly meeting. In other cities, they will be held on a separate date. They will provide an overview of the process that is taking place, a description of the proportional representation models most likely to be recommended by the Assembly, and an examination of the OFL position on these various models.

It is our hope that these educationals will provide union members with a basic understanding of what is going on with this process, so that when the Assembly does make its recommendation, labour can organize for or against it without delay. We are asking affiliates to encourage as many of their members as possible to come out to these sessions. We need a well-informed membership when the time comes to vote on this crucial issue.

There is no charge for these sessions, and we will have materials for people to take back to their locals. The complete list of cities, times and dates are on the reverse side of this letter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our Political and Legislative Director, Sandra Clifford at 416-443-7684.

In solidarity,

Wayne Samuelson
President

WS/SC/jm/cope343

c: Irene Harris, Terry Downey
OFL Directors, OFL Electoral Reform Working Group

| CITY | DATE AND TIME | LOCATION |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Belleville | Tuesday, February 6 6:30 p.m. | Federation House 114 Victoria Avenue |
| Toronto | Wednesday, February 7 7:30 p.m. | OFL Auditorium 15 Gervais Drive |
| Sault Ste. Marie | Thursday, February 8 7:30 p.m. | 773 Great Northern Road Suite 5 |
| Kitchener | Tuesday, February 13 8:00 p.m. | CAW Hall 600 Wabanaki Drive |
| London | Wednesday, February 14 6:00 p.m. | Tolpuddle Housing Co-op 15-380 Adelaide Street North |
| Hamilton | Thursday, February 15 7:00 p.m. | USW Hall 1031 Barton Street |
| Dryden | Monday, February 19 8:00 p.m. | Best Western Hotel 349 Government Street Patricia White Otter Room |
| Kingston | Monday, February 19 8:15 p.m. | USW Labour Centre 105 Sutherland Drive Greenridge Plaza |
| Ottawa | Wednesday, February 21 8:00 p.m. | PSAC Building 233 Gilmour Street |
| Sudbury | Thursday, February 22 8:00 p.m. | OPSEU Office 866 Newgate Avenue |
| Thunder Bay | Thursday, February 22 8:15 p.m. | Lakehead Labour Centre 929 Fort William Road |
| Kenora | Monday, February 26 7:30 p.m. | Best Western Lakeside Inn 470 1 st Avenue South |
| Niagara Falls | Wednesday, February 28 7:30 p.m. | Sheraton Fallsview Hotel 6755 Fallsview Blvd. Oakes North East Room |
| Timmins | Thursday, March 1 7:30 p.m. | OPSEU Membership Hall 100 Waterloo Road |