



**“Human Rights, Competing Rights, Emerging Rights”  
The Eaton Chelsea - Toronto, Ontario  
November 7– 9, 2014**

July 2014

Dear Members:

The Aboriginal Circle, the Provincial Francophone Committee, the Provincial Human Rights Committee, the Provincial Young Workers Committee, the Disability Rights Caucus, the Rainbow Alliance and the Workers of Colour Caucus invite you to submit your application to attend the 2014 OPSEU Human Rights Conference. We look forward to meeting you!

This event can accommodate approximately 115 members who will be selected to participate in the conference by the Human Rights Conference Planning Committee. The selection process will try to achieve a diverse group of attendees, representative of the many groups within our membership and their distribution among our regions. We are aiming for a rich mix of backgrounds and points of view among the participants.

The conference will focus on strategies of human rights advocacy while examining trends in competing and emerging rights. The topics explored will include, but are not limited to, discussions on key human rights issues affecting aboriginal communities, children, and migrant workers. The groups planning the conference want participants to go home with ideas for immediate action in their communities.

**The deadline for applications is September 2, 2014.** Confirmations will be sent to the selected participants in mid-September.

Don't miss this opportunity to network, learn, share experiences *and* have some fun. Join us as at the 2014 OPSEU Human Rights Conference.

In solidarity,

Human Rights Conference Planning Committee

Authorized for Distribution:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Warr" followed by a stylized flourish.

### **About the 2014 Human Rights Conference**

This year's theme *Human Rights, Competing Rights, Emerging Rights* aims to be interactive where participants will be utilizing electronic polling throughout the conference to shape the discussions arising from the scheduled presentations. Human rights speakers and advocates will focus on key current human rights issues and emerging trends.

### **Who Should Attend?**

The Conference is open to all OPSEU members, regardless of their union experience. There are about 115 available spots across all OPSEU's regions. Members of equity-seeking groups are especially encouraged to apply. The Conference will include a diverse group of participants.

### **Tentative Conference Outline**

#### **Friday, November 7, 2014**

5:00 to 7:00 p.m.	Registration
5:00 p.m.	Smudging
7:00 p.m.	Conference Opening
7:30 to 7:45 p.m.	Introduction to e-polling
7:45 to 9:00 p.m.	Guest speaker Cheryl Perera – OneChild <i>OneChild is the premiere organization inspiring a movement of children and youth taking action against child sex slavery.</i>

#### **Saturday, November 8, 2014**

7:00 a.m.	Sunrise Ceremony
9:00 to 9:15 a.m.	Conference re-opening
9:15 to 10:15 a.m.	Panel Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chris Ramsaroop – A community organizer, he educates immigrant communities about workers' rights in areas such as workers' compensation and occupational health and safety; engaging them as well in general strategies to resist exploitation.</li><li>• Paul Champ – A human rights lawyer who regularly represents individuals and trade unions as well as organizations such as Amnesty International. His work</li></ul>

**ALL APPLICATIONS ARE DUE IN THE EQUITY UNIT ON September 2, 2014**

**E-MAIL: [equity@opseu.org](mailto:equity@opseu.org) OR FAX AT: 416.448.7419**

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with clients has set legal precedents in *Charter* rights, discrimination and prisoners' rights, just to name a few.

- Representative from the Ontario Human Rights Commission (to be determined)

10:15 to 10:30 a.m.	Break
10:30 to 11:45 a.m.	Question and answer period with e-polling
11:45 to 12:00 p.m.	Morning wrap-up
12:00 to 1:30 p.m.	Lunch break (lunch is not provided)
1:30 to 2:30 p.m.	<p>Keynote Speaker – Rick Westhead</p> <p>He is an award-winning foreign correspondent and former South Asia bureau chief with <i>The Toronto Star</i>. He has reported for the <i>Star</i> in countries including India, Pakistan and Afghanistan. More recently, he travelled to Bangladesh and reported on the garment sector for a <i>Star</i> series called "The Clothes on Your Back." He has also written for <i>The Globe and Mail</i> and has been a frequent contributor to <i>The New York Times</i>.</p>
2:30 to 3:30 p.m.	Question and answers with e-polling
3:30 to 3:45 p.m.	Break
3:45 to 4:30 p.m.	<p>Entertainment – Rosina Kazi</p> <p>Rosina grew up in the Canadian-Bangladeshi community where politics and art went hand in hand. She grew up with traditional Bengali folk music and dance and went to play in choirs and bands up until high school.</p> <p>Rosina teaches and performs spoken word, which is another outlet for her passion for community and art.</p>
4:30 to 7:00 p.m.	Dinner break (dinner not provided)
7:00 to 8:30 p.m.	<p>OPSEU and International Solidarity Work</p> <p>This evening will look at the work OPSEU has done beyond its borders here in Ontario. What kind of international presence does it have? Other questions that will be explored include: what is the purpose of the Solidarity Fund; who benefits from it and how; and what are the possible impacts to local communities receiving assistance?</p>

**Sunday, November 9, 2014**

7:00 a.m.	Sunrise Ceremony
9:00 to 9:15 a.m.	Conference re-opening
9:15 to 10:30 a.m.	Film Presentation – Third World Canada
10:30 to 10:45 a.m.	Break
10:45 to 11:45 a.m.	Questions and answers with the filmmaker Andrée Cazabon Gemini nominee and inspirational speaker Andrée Cazabon recently completed her fifth film, <i>Third World Canada</i> on the plight of children living on First Nations reserve.  Andrée's films have amassed over 1 million viewers on CBC- Newsworld, TVA, Canal D, Radio-Canada, and CBC Television. Her films have also prominently featured at several film festivals.
11:45 to 12:00 p.m.	Wrap-up
12:00 p.m.	Closing Ceremony

## **APPLICATION FORM**

(Please Print or Type)

**Applicant Number (to be assigned by Equity Unit):** \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Personal Information</b>	<b>Local #:</b> _____ <b>Union #</b> _____ <b>Name:</b> _____ Last First <b>Home Address:</b> _____ _____ <b>Phone Numbers:</b> _____ Home Other <b>Email Address:</b> _____
<b>Sector</b>	_____OPS _____BPS _____CAAT-A _____CAAT-S
<b>Hotel</b>	<p><b>Members are responsible for making their own accommodation arrangements at the Eaton Chelsea (33 Gerrard Street West, Toronto) by contacting the hotel directly. A block of rooms is being held until October 8, 2014.</b></p> <p><b>Information about hotel reservations will be sent to successful applicants upon completion of the selection process.</b> All participants are entitled to stay at the hotel on a shared room cost basis. The 60km rule has been waived for this event.</p>

**NOTE:** Information regarding Advance, Time-Off, Human Rights Accommodation, Childcare Requests and Carpooling options will also be sent to successful participants upon completion of the selection process.

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**Application Form (Continued)**

**Applicant Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

About 115 spaces are available for members attending the Conference. These spaces will be divided among OPSEU's 7 regions. The selection committee will try to ensure that participants represent the diversity of identities and experience in OPSEU, based on the following considerations:

**1. Which of the following groups do you identify with? (please select all boxes that apply):**

- ☐ **A racialized person** (a person who may experience differential treatment on the basis of race, ethnicity, language, religion or culture; e.g. a person whose heritage is Asian, African or Caribbean).
- ☐ **A non-racialized person** (a person who does not experience differential treatment on the basis of "race", ethnicity, language, religion or culture e.g. a person who considers themselves to be white and/or European heritage)
- ☐ **Francophone** (a person whose first language is French and who still speaks French)
- ☐ **Anglophone** (a person whose first language is English and who still speaks English)
- ☐ **A person of aboriginal ancestry** (e.g. Métis, Inuit, First Nations)
- ☐ **A person with a disability** (based on a long term or recurring physical, mental, sensory, mental health/emotional disability or learning impairment)
- ☐ **An able-bodied person** (a person without a physical/sensory, mental/emotional, or learning disability)
- ☐ **Gay** (males with a sexual orientation to males)
- ☐ **Bisexual** (persons who have a sexual orientation to females and males)
- ☐ **Lesbian** (females with a sexual orientation to females)
- ☐ **Questioning** (persons who are questioning their sexual orientation)
- ☐ **Two Spirited** (a term adopted by Aboriginal communities to refer to those who embody both the male and female spirit. )
- ☐ **Gender Variant** (persons who are transgendered, transsexual and inter-sexed)
- ☐ **Heterosexual** (persons who have a sexual orientation to the opposite sex)
- ☐ **Male**
- ☐ **Female**

**2. Which of the following age groups do you belong?**

- ☐ **16-25**
- ☐ **26-35**
- ☐ **36-45**
- ☐ **46-55**
- ☐ **56-65**
- ☐ **Over 65**

**3. Have you attended a previous OPSEU Human Rights Conference?**

☐ No      ☐ Yes      If yes, what year? \_\_\_\_\_

**Application Form (Continued)**

**Applicant Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Are you active in OPSEU (e.g. elected to union position)?**

☐ No ☐ Yes

**5. Are you active in the community (e.g. Volunteer at a community agency or religious organization?)**

☐ No ☐ Yes

**6. If you are active in OPSEU and/or the community, please tell us what you do.**

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**7. In a few words, please tell us why you would like to attend the Conference.**

(You might want to consider addressing the following in your answer - your previous union or community-based experience; your particular passion or interest in equity and human rights issues and how the conference relates to your union or community work.)

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