

July 12, 2017

Dear OPSEU members:

The OPSEU Provincial Women's Committee invites applications for the 2017 Women's Conference – *Women Rising 2017!* In addition to welcoming previous conference participants, we would like to extend a special invitation to those who have not attended in the past.

This year's conference promises to be particularly exciting. We are pleased to present a thought-provoking roster of speakers, panel discussions, artists and performers. Our goal is for you to go home with ideas for immediate action in your communities. We are looking for a rich mix of conference participants with diverse backgrounds and points of view.

The goal of the conference is to educate and raise awareness so that women feel inspired, motivated and encouraged to "rise up" and take action. The conference will also provide skills-based workshops focusing on building solidarity, unity and cohesion in the following areas:

- Violence against Women: Educating and Campaigning for Change
- Women and Environmental Awareness
- Poverty, Economics and Work

Don't miss this opportunity to network, learn, share experiences and have some fun. Please join us as we enjoy the camaraderie of our peers from across the province. With your participation, passion and insight we can make this one of the best women's conferences yet!

Please submit a completed application form via the member portal at <https://members.opseu.org>, no later than midnight on Friday, August 25, 2017. Paper applications can be submitted via e-mail to provincialwomensconference@opseu.org or via fax to: 416-448-7419. Please also note that we will be using an anonymous selection process and will apply the criteria for selection as set out in the conference application. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

We look forward to meeting you at the conference!

In solidarity,

The OPSEU Provincial Women's Committee

Authorized for Distribution:



Warren (Smokey) Thomas, President

Tentative Conference Outline

Friday, November 3, 2017:

5:00 - 7:00 pm	Registration
5:30 - 6:00 pm	Smudging
6:00 - 7:00 pm	Dinner (not provided)
7:00 - 9:00 pm	Special Presentations: <i>Women Rising: "Winds of Change"</i>

Saturday, November 4, 2017

Sunrise	Smudging
8:00 - 9:30 am	Breakfast (not provided)
9:30 - 10:00 am	Introduction and welcome
10:00 - 11:00 am	Key Note Speaker and Plenary: <i>Inspiring Activism: tools and strategies to fight for change</i>
11:00 - 11:15am	Break
11:15 - 12:00 pm	Question Cafe and close of plenary
12:00 - 1:30 pm	Lunch (not provided)
1:30 - 5:00 pm	Skills-building and action workshops
5:00 - 7:30 pm	Dinner (not provided)
7:30 - 9:00 pm	Special presentation

Sunday, November 5, 2017:

Sunrise	Smudging
8:00 - 9:00 am	Breakfast (not provided)
9:00 - 9:15 am	Intro and welcome
9:15 - 10:30 am	Plenary: <i>Building the Future of Women's Activism</i>
10:30 - 11:00 am	Action group discussions
11:00 - 11:15 am	Break
11:15 - 12:30 pm	Conference closing: special presentations
12:15 - 12:30 pm	Smudging