**REPORT**

**CLC Summer School – Port Elgin, Ontario**

**Parliamentary Procedures and Public Speaking Course**

**July 3 to 8, 2016**

Jane and Eddie Ste. Marie were the instructors for the week. I cannot say enough about them and about their knowledge and ease for teaching a class of 25 participants. We had excellent reference materials, and we did some role playing through the week. I highly recommend this course to our members, which teaches you how meetings can run smoothly when they are conducted in a structured manner and also ensures that everyone’s voice is heard. They also gave a short blurb on the structure of the Canadian Labour Congress – an important body that many unions belong too, as well as Federations of Labour and Labour Councils, yet members are not always aware.

We attended a few plenary sessions through the week. We heard an aboriginal woman speak about how if we can be one land, we can be one person – a strong message of unionization. James Pratt (CLC Political Action and Campaigns) made great points regarding the Canada Pension Plan(CPP) with a Power Point Presentation – see <https://www.abetterplanforall.ca/> to sign the petition. We also saw the retirement commercial by the CLC about a man turning in his ‘retirement gift’ watch so he can have some extra money (he had no pension plan). We were also informed of the CLC campaign on the Trans-Pacific-Partnerships, for more information, please see <http://canadianlabour.ca/news/news-archive/government-must-stop-trans-pacific-partnership-tpp>. We heard Chris Buckley (Ontario Federation of Labour) speak to the Fairness campaign, and how he wants to make life better – Make It Fair - for all Ontario workers – good speaker.

During the week, there was plenty of opportunity to hear from other union members and their struggles. For instance, the Canadian Health Coalition has an Annual Fund Raiser by selling Organic Garlic (see attached form); other unions are having organizing drives, i.e. IFPTE is trying to organize Legal Aid Lawyers; there were members from CUPW, who were on the edge of a strike and gave us daily updates regarding their possible strike, or lockout by Canada Post.

I also got to know some people on a personal note; some living in the Ottawa area. Sandra, of UNDE (PSAC) is a music teacher and she volunteered to write the class song; unfortunately, she had to leave class mid-week and could not be there for the show - we had great lyrics, but could have used her talent to lead us!

In class during the week we watched CLC produced videos ‘The Millennium Series’. This is the history of unions in Canada through the years. I liked these videos and will be requesting the series for showing to our members.

Other non-class activities were held, such as a camp fire with marshmallows, an evening social gathering at a local bar in town, a Bocce tournament, class songs were created for the Thursday evening, many took advantage of the beach on Lake Huron, and if you consider eating an activity there was certainly plenty of food for everyone.

This family centre is great especially for children. Boys and girls of all ages are included in numerous activities, and the childcare service is excellent (from what I hear). For spouses, with or without children, it offers the beach, golf nearby, fishing, lots of shopping, and participation and engagement with union members at the Family Centre.

**Things to Note:**

Rise up! 2016 – CLC Human Rights Conference – October 20, 2016

Young Workers’ Summit – sponsored by CLC – October 23-25, 2016, Ottawa.

Make it Fair – [www.MakeItFair.ca](http://www.MakeItFair.ca) – sponsored by the OFL

Class motto of the week - That’s Bullshit!

**Attached:**

Course Certificate

OHC – Garlic Fundraiser

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Fenton

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