

**TSU STATUS OF WOMEN PRESENTS:
A WORKSHOP ABOUT HEALTHY ACTIVE LIVING
(SPECIFICALLY GEARED TOWARDS WOMEN)**

APRIL 21, 4-6 P.M.

Sarah Goodman, from Shepell (LTD), will be presenting regarding benefits and counselling, with a specific focus on Healthy Active Living for women of all ages.

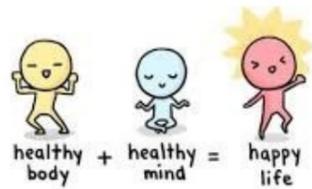
Registration: 3:45 p.m.

Start: 4:00 p.m. SHARP

Fee: \$10.00(make cheques payable to TSU and courier to Sabina @ TSU Office)

Refreshments will be provided, and there will be a takeaway for all attendees.

RSVP to Sabina@tsuoecta.org by **April 14, 2015.**



Pregnant? Planning a Pregnancy?

TSU is holding a Parental Leave/Benefits workshop on
**April 7, 2015, at 4:00-6:00 p.m., at 951 Wilson
Avenue.**

RSVP to Sabina@tsuoecta.org.

OECTA Provincial will be answering your questions.



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TS*YOU

IN

THIS ISSUE

SPECIAL EDITION: WOMEN'S ISSUES

HAPPY INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY!!

Veronica Tuzi, Recording Secretary & Executive Liaison to TSU Status of Women Committee

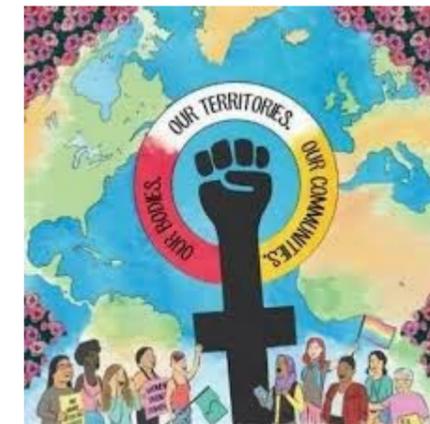
At the UAGM of 2013, the membership voted overwhelmingly to introduce a brand new committee to the already extant slate of TSU committees: Status of Women. Made up of five dedicated and passionate women, this committee has made strides and has sought to bring attention to the issues surrounding women and girls, both locally and globally.

What does the Status of Women Committee seek to do? The following are the terms of reference:

- To advise the Executive on ways to enhance the status of women in society;
- To educate members about women's issues;
- To make recommendations to the Executive for possible action related to the status of women;
- To inform members of the current trends, issues, and problems as they pertain to the status of women.

How has the Committee sought to implement the terms of reference? In various ways, including: publishing articles of interest in the TS*YOU newsletter; holding fundraisers at the socials, with proceeds going to the Red Door Shelter and to Rosalie Hall; sending out information and resources to commemorate the Montreal Massacre; holding self defense sessions specifically geared for women; attending the International Day of Women's March; and planning informational sessions regarding women's health (upcoming). And for this year's OECTA AGM, we have introduced a resolution regarding creating a process in order to assist members who are experiencing domestic abuse.

We are always looking for more members to join the committee, so as to enlighten with their perspective and to help implement new and innovative ideas for all to participate in. When the committee applications for 2015-2016 become available, please join!



From the Canadian Labour Congress:

International Women's Day 2015

Time for a New Normal: Women in Canada Need Child Care

It's International Women's Day, a time to celebrate women's achievements and also to reflect on the barriers to equality that remain in place. Removing one of those barriers—the struggle to access quality child care—could be just one election away.

Everyone benefits when parents can go to work knowing that their children are safe and well cared for. Parents benefit because they can take on better jobs and balance work and family responsibilities. Kids benefit because they have a safe place to learn, grow and play.

The economic benefits of child care are well-established, or as the TD Bank stated, "Unquestionable". According to their report, "Ultimately, investment in early education can help to address core economic and social challenges facing Canada. It can help reduce poverty, address skills shortages, and improve productivity and innovation, and a host of other national priorities".

Child care is a necessary ingredient to helping make women available for work, education and training. We have seen the success of Quebec's child care system, which saw substantial increases in women's participation in paid work as well as a reduction in poverty rates. And Quebec has also shown us that money spent on child care pays for itself in increased tax revenue and other socio-economic benefits.

But even though it's normal for moms to work outside the home (70% of mothers with kids under 6 do), good child care in Canada is hard to find, and even harder to afford.

Over the last two years, Canada's labour movement has been talking to our members about their experiences finding, juggling and paying for child care. We have heard some incredible stories, ranging from the absurd to the tragic.

Like the postal worker, a new Canadian who couldn't find child care she could afford and had to send her children back to Nigeria to be cared for by her parents until they were old enough to go to school. Or the lone-parenting mom who relies on the school bus commute as after-school care because she can't afford the fees, and races at the end of the day to meet the bus.

Often when people talk about child care, they use words like "luck", as in "I was lucky to get in" or "I feel like I won the lottery, getting this space".

Surviving the child care years has become a normal part of family life. It's something parents are all expected to endure.

We need a new normal. Getting safe, affordable, quality child care should not be a matter of luck. It should be a matter of course.

In 1984, the Royal Commission on Equality in Employment, headed by the current Supreme Court Justice Rosalie Abella, said that, "child care is the ramp that provides equal access to the workforce for mothers".

Why hasn't government policy and support for child care kept pace with working women?

During the second world war, the federal government showed leadership by striking agreements with the provinces to establish day nurseries in areas where mothers "live, not where they work". The facilities provided healthy meals, qualified staff and aimed to "inculcate ideals such as independence, cooperation and responsibility [using the] latest methods in child psychology to achieve this end". Unfortunately this support ended once the war was over.

The [Royal Commission on the Status of Women](#) (1970) was the first to propose a national child care program. Since then there have been three major attempts by federal governments to develop a national child care strategy, countless studies, reports, several national conferences over three decades (most recently this past November), all devoted to examining child care as a public good and recommending federal leadership to work with the provinces to make it happen.

That's a lot of time. Generations of children, generations of parents, all kept waiting for real options that would help working parents balance work and family life. Women's careers have changed over the decades. Workplaces have changed. But our child care system has not kept pace.

It's time for change. We need a government that will commit to financing and to working with the provinces and territories to establish a real, universal child care system. One that will ensure new spaces really do open up, and one that addresses sky high fees.

What we don't need is more of the same plan that keeps taking us back in time, rewarding high-income families where one parent stays at home with tax breaks, while offering taxable handouts to everyone else (money that does not even remotely approach the cost of child care... if you can find it).

Canada's labour movement has made many gains for working women—gains we celebrate on International Women's Day. From maternity and parental leave to public pensions, from equal pay to workplace safety legislation, unions have led the way for better, fairer workplaces for all women in Canada. Now the labour movement is calling for a national child care system so all parents can count on quality child care when they return to work.

And, that national child care system could be just one election away. Help us get there. Together with child care advocates, Canada's labour movement will be part of a week of action from May 10 to 17, 2015; a week when we will celebrate child care as a public good and call for a system that will provide all families with high quality care at a fee every family can afford.

Join us. Because a new normal for working women and their families could be just one election away.



From LabourStart Canada:

With International Women's Day coming up this Sunday it was the perfect time to freshen our Working Women page. On it appears stories about women workers and their particular and often incredibly heroic struggles around the world.

Don't just admire the new, cleaner design. Use the page to find out what your union is saying and doing this IWD. Maybe even look for an event or an action you can join.

And if you notice that we're missing a union IWD statement or event let us know by responding to this message with a link. Or even better yet: become one of our volunteers so that you can add stories to our site on your own.

No message from LabourStart would be complete without an online action. Celebrate this IWD by sending a solidarity message in support of fired Ecuadorean flight attendant union organizer Jimena Lopez.

Participating takes only seconds and it might just change this sister's life.

Thanks, and Happy IWD!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Derek Blackadder".

Derek Blackadder
LabourStart Canada



LabourStart
Canada

Scan the QR code for more information from LabourStart Canada,

<http://www.labourstart.org/2013/country.php?country=Canada&langcode=en>

From Education International:

International Women's Day 2015: Looking back to Beijing and beyond 2015

2015 is an auspicious year for International Women's Day celebrations: we mark the 20th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the most advanced document on women's rights and empowerment ever signed by world leaders.

The 189 members of the United Nations who unanimously took this bold step at the UN's Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995, outlined critical areas of concern and concrete actions that governments, UN institutions and civil society must take if humanity is to become truly gender equal, and women's and girls' human rights are to be promoted, protected and fulfilled.

It is definitely a moment to acknowledge some critical achievements that have brought us closer to meeting these objectives. Over the last twenty years, the global gender gap in education has become narrower and some countries have reached parity in school enrolment; the number of women dying in child birth has almost halved; and in 46 countries, women now hold more than 30% of the seats in national parliaments in at least one chamber.

But there is still a long way to go; progress on implementing the Beijing Platform for Action has been slow and uneven. This year we also take stock of progress made on reaching the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the Education for All (EFA) objectives set in 2000 to be achieved by 2015. The 2014 MDG Report highlighted the serious challenges that still remain, including the fact that 60% of the 781 million adults and 126 million youth worldwide who lack basic literacy skills are women and girls; and although poverty rates were halved between 1990 and 2010, 1.2 billion people live in extreme poverty today.

Poor women's work subsidises the global economy with US\$9 trillion annually (you read that correctly: *nine trillion dollars every year*). We are talking here about women who are trapped in low paid precarious forms of work while shouldering a heavy load of unpaid care work in their families.

The gender-based exploitation of women in poor countries saves the world the equivalent of the combined GDPs of Britain, France and Germany each year.

Because education is a human right in itself and an enabling right that transforms lives, education unions' work to advance the rights of women and girls to and in education, is without parallel.

Education International calls on all its member organisations to renew their efforts this year: so much more needs to be done for the vision in the Beijing Platform for Action to become a reality for the world's women and girls, boys and men. When we empower women and girls, we empower

From the TCDSB:

WENTT 'Discovery Days' (Women Entering Non Traditional Trades)

Hello Everyone: We're back!!!! For the second year running, secondary school female students from the **Toronto Catholic District School Board**, will have the opportunity to participate in a series of events supporting them to become more aware of the **156** skilled trades available as career choices throughout Canada. Students and teachers will be given the opportunity to participate in our **'Discovery Days'** that will allow our female students to attend a local union or college and participate in **'hands on activities'** to further enhance their awareness of the skilled trades.

Rationale:

- Place female students in a 'welcoming', all female environment in the initial phases of the skilled trades industry
- Giving female students the opportunity to 'sample' an assortment of trades
- Better informed of **Accelerated OYAP** initiatives offered in the second semester with local training delivery partners including **George Brown College, Humber College, Centennial College, Local 183 (CCW)**, and the **Carpentry College and Allied Trades**.
- Creating a greater awareness of **Specialist High Skills Major** and **Dual Credit** programming in TCDSB schools

Highlights:

- The **'Discovery Days'** are open to **ALL** TCDSB female secondary school students and will operate on a first come, first served basis. A maximum of **30** students will be accepted for any given event (date).
- Students can choose from **one (1)** Discovery Day to attend or all **five (5)** if they so desire. Students **MUST** tick off the box next to the Discovery Day event to indicate which event they are apply-

ing for.

- Students will participate in a series of **'hands on'** activities pertaining to the specific trade they have chosen in order to give them a better awareness and understanding of the basic skills required to perform the duties of that skilled trade.
 - Transportation to and from all events will be provided.
- Students will also be invited to go to the **Skills Canada Provincial Competitions** at **RIM Park in Waterloo, Ontario, on Tuesday, May 5**. Our female students will have the opportunity to observe over 60 different competitions in the trades and technology and visit dozens of displays from various college, unions, and other post-secondary institutions.

- Dates of **'Discovery Days'** are as follows:
 - 1) **April 8 - Construction Craft Worker @ Local 183**
 - 2) **April 22 - Carpentry @ Local 27**
 - 3) **April 29 - Automotive Service Technician @ Centennial College**
 - 4) **May 5 - Trip to Skills Canada Provincial Competitions at RIM Park in Waterloo, Ontario**
 - 5) **May 13 - Plumbing @ Humber College**
 - 6) **May 20 - Electrical @ George Brown College**

**APPLICATION DEADLINE DATE -
FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2015
PLEASE SUBMIT VIA FAX YOUR
STUDENTS' APPLICATION ASAP!!!**



From FAFIA:

In 2014, the Feminist Alliance for International Action (FAFIA) launched its [Campaign of Solidarity with Aboriginal Women](#). We thank you for becoming part of our solidarity network and helping to spread the word about the human rights of Aboriginal women and girls.

Today, Monday January 12, 2015, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) has released a groundbreaking report on its investigation into the murders and disappearances of Aboriginal women and girls in British Columbia. The investigation was requested by the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) and FAFIA in March 2012.

The IACHR has made crucial findings and recommendations that can help to address the crisis of violence against Aboriginal women and girls.

Key findings and recommendations include:

- Canada is legally required to address the violence against Aboriginal women and girls fully and effectively. This is not a matter of choice or priorities. Canada's obligations under international human rights law require:
 - 1) elimination of the discrimination which causes the violence; and
 - 2) an effective response from Canada's institutions—including the police and justice system— when Aboriginal women and girls disappear or are murdered.
- The root causes of the high levels of violence against Aboriginal women and girls lie in a history of discrimination beginning with colonization and continuing today through laws and policies such as the Indian Act and the ongoing consequences of the residential school system.
- This history laid the foundations for the staggering violence Aboriginal women and girls face today, and contributes to the increased vulnerability of Aboriginal women and girls to violence through economic marginalization, social



dislocation and psychological trauma.

- Canada **MUST** take effective measures to address risk factors that increase Aboriginal women's and girls' vulnerability to violence, including: combating the poverty of Aboriginal women and girls, improving education and employment, guaranteeing adequate housing, and addressing the over-criminalization of Aboriginal women and girls.

- There must be a national coordinated response to violence against Aboriginal women and girls. Both federal and provincial governments have legal obligations under international human rights law to respond to this crisis.

The IACHR strongly supports a nationwide inquiry to address violence against Aboriginal women and girls. An inquiry must be developed and carried out with the full participation of Aboriginal women.

To read the full report go to: www.fafia-afai.org/en/iachr-report-released/ or to www.oas.org/en/iachr/reports/pdfs/Indigenous-Women-BC-Canada-en.pdf

Learn more about FAFIA and NWAC's work with the IACHR here: www.fafia-afai.org/en/solidarity-campaign/#the-inter-american-commission-human-rights



Remember how this dress debate drove us mad for a week? A brilliant PR campaign from South Africa has decided to adapt it for the purpose of bringing attention to the issue of abuse.

To that end, since the issue of domestic abuse has been prevalent for the past few months, the TSU Status of Women Committee sent a resolution to OECTA for the AGM (March 13-16, 2015).

It is our hope that delegates vote unanimously for OECTA to create a process whereby members who are experiencing domestic abuse have options available for them to receive help and support.