



# THE VIEW

FROM

# Local 2

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## Worker's Choice~ Right to Work?



### The only real choice is clear!

Recently the Progressive Conservatives' in Ontario, under the extreme leadership of Tim Hudak, announced that their main platform for the next election will be a Right to Work initiative they're calling "Worker's choice". Sound friendly? Well it's not, and Hudak is not the only wannabe Premier who's borrowing Republican American anti-worker policies. Other provinces, specifically out west, have interest in the same anti-worker laws.

**So what's the big deal?** Right to work is not new. It was born in the 1930's in the deep U.S south in a racist response to worker's rights initiatives. It's persists today as a favourite tactic of Republicans to severely weaken their opponents. It's done under the guise of giving worker's additional rights, but it's really designed to eliminate worker's collective strength both politically and at their workplaces.

**But it creates jobs?** - Does it? The data doesn't prove it. What is clear is that worker's in Right to Work states **both** Union and Non-Union earn on average \$1500 less than states without right to work laws.

What is being presented in Ontario is very dangerous to the average working class family in Canada.

The entire Labour movement in Canada needs to be on alert!

Around the Country we can't be fooled by right wing PR machines that wrap up these anti-worker laws in friendly packaging. In Ontario we can't get "Hud'winked" and lose decades of hard fought progress for worker's rights!

### Elections at McMaster



**Stewards Group**  
Above from Left to right Cathy Pirrotta, Patricia Townes, Ray Osbourne, Giovanna Aguilar, Don Verge, Andrew Gillies (\* Not Pictured Michele Holman)

Recently elections were held at McMaster University Hospitality. Almost all positions had an election, as there was great interest from our members. SEIU Local 2 thanks all those who ran for a position and would like to congratulate those who were successful.

We would also thank all those members who took the time out to come and vote! Local 2 is looking forward to continuing the hard work and progress that has happened at the University.

We will be working closely with Cathy Pirrotta, your Branch Local President, and all the reps. at McMaster. The first JWCC meeting took place with the new hospitality manager Bill McFadden on October 17th, 2013 and the "table has been set" for the future.

### Local 2 member's volunteer support

In a show of solidarity for striking Labatt worker's in Newfoundland members of Branch Local 1 have been volunteering their time before and after work once a week to hold an information picket at the London Brewery. With the connections that have been developed globally, Branch Local 1 is one of a number of efforts to bring a global focus on the plight of workers who have been on strike for many months in Newfoundland with no end in sight. Officers and members picket on a voluntary basis for 30 minutes each week in a highly visible location at the London Brewery. In addition to the info picket Branch Local 1 members have done a great job fund raising to help support their NAPE brother and sisters in St. Johns.



### Our members in profile



**M**aria Teves has been a member with 16 years seniority with Compass Group at the Royal Bank Plaza.

Maria has always been a great supporter to Local 2



**P**at Singh has 38 years seniority with Schenker of Canada. He has been a steward and is currently chief steward, and is on SEIU Local 2's Executive Board.

**J**ose (Joe) Melo starting working at the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) in 1969, and continues there as a Service Worker and a member of SEIU.

He started at the ROM when his brother brother-in-law who worked there at the time told him they were looking for Service workers, he was currently working across the road at Swiss Chalet on Bloor Street. When he heard about the job opening at the ROM, he went straight over and was hired on the spot!



He in fact threw his Swiss Chalet uniform away and never picked up his final cheque from them. At the time he was making \$2.19 and hour at Swiss Chalet and the ROM position paid him \$3.89 per hour.

During his 44 years as a local 2 member at the ROM he has experienced 3 strikes over that time and credits a strong cohesive workplace and the support of the local union as the main reason his job has never been subcontracted.

The pay, benefits and pension plan at the ROM have allowed Joe to maintain a life style he enjoys and he does not envision retirement anytime soon. Joe got married in 1976 and has 3 grown boys.

Joe as seen in these two pictures, the group picture was taken in 1993 and the single one this year!

AND THEN I TOLD THEM "RIGHT TO WORK"



WOULD CREATE A LOT OF GOOD JOBS

### Attention Local Officers and Members : Political Action Training

There is an opportunity in the first Quarter of 2014 to attend political action training in Toronto. SEIU Local 2 will be offering this training in conjunction with our Executive Council meeting at that time. The training will be over 2 days and those attending will be eligible for work-release time off to participate in future activities/ events put on by Local 2. If you are interested or would like more info please contact Cassandra 905-602-7477 or email: [cvanrooyen@seiulocal2.ca](mailto:cvanrooyen@seiulocal2.ca).