



Representing Contract Lecturers and Graduate/Teaching Assistants at Ryerson University

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Aneesa Khan, Amir Kiurmarsi and Mary Green attended the Canadian Association of Labour Media Conference (CALM) on November 8, 2014. The picture of Aneesa and Mary was taken by Amir Kiurmarsi. All three agreed that the all-day conference was both interesting and informative.



Sessional instructors and graduate students from University of Toronto and York University went on strike in January, 2015, with primary demands such as job security, wages, class sizes, research funding and tuition fees (sound familiar?). In solidarity with CUPE 3902 and CUPE 3903, John Girardo and Mary Green went out to support them. The rally ended at Queen's Park.



In February, 2015, in collaboration with the Continuing Education Students Association (CESAR), and supported by the Ryerson Faculty Association (RFA) and CUPE 3904, the Ryerson Students' Union (RSU) put together a booklet titled *A Tuition Fee Freeze is Possible: Ryerson's Alternative Budget* and organized a meeting where the booklet was presented, with a fascinating discussion following.

Representatives from the RSU (including President Jesse Root), from CESAR, Kelly Train from CUPE 3904, Ian Sakinofsky from the RFA, and the two outside professionals commissioned to draft the document, Sean Goebey, Economist and Anthony Piscitelli, Accredited Canadian Credit Union Director were there to explain and elaborate on the contents of the Alternative Budget.

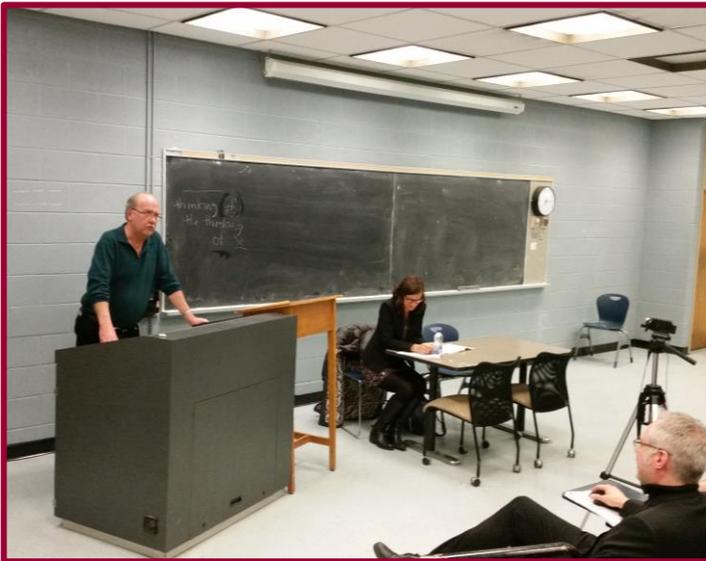
The Alternative Budget focused on access to quality education. Important recommendations were that surplus funds be distributed with more equity and that administration expenses and management structure (including excessive use of external consultants) could be reduced. The RSU noted the drastic increased use of the Foodbank, attributed mostly to rising tuition fees and student loans.

Kelly Train, representing CUPE 3904 told the student audience that "our interests are in line with yours," and mentioned our continuing struggle to keep class sizes from increasing. She stated that "your educational conditions are our work conditions," a comment which resonated with the audience. Richard Deklerk and Mary Green were there to support the RSU initiative.



President of CUPE 3904 Joe Zboralski introduced Dr. Stephanie Luce, invited speaker at the Phyllis Clarke Lecture this year. Phyllis Clarke was a founding member of CUEW, which became CUPE, and a valued member of the Politics Department until 1977. After giving a brief history of Phyllis Clarke's life and legacy, Joe mentioned previous Phyllis Clarke lecturers, including Stephen Lewis, Jim Stanford, Maude Barlow and Kostas Laporitsas (from the newly-elected SYRIZA party in Greece).

Stephanie Luce is a Professor of Labour Studies at City University in New York. She began by noting that there has finally been acknowledgement that there is a "labour crisis," and stated that we are witnessing historic levels of inequality around the globe, something that began even before the 2007 crisis because of the neo-liberal agenda in place.



*Alternative Routes: A Journal of Critical Social Research* organized the conference "Labour Pains, Capital Gains: The Paradox of Low-Wage, No-Wage Work" on March 27, 2015. Mary Green had the opportunity to attend the Alternative Routes Keynote Roundtable: "From Minimum Wage to a Fair Wage."

Stephanie Luce, City University of New York; Sheila Block, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives Ontario; and Don Wells, McMaster University, spoke about a cross-national campaign that has emerged "to demand a living/fair wage standard to be enacted and enforced." The panel offered an assessment of the struggle and of future prospects pertaining to low-or-no wages.

Amongst an avid audience, attending this informative session were Andrea Calver, from the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations (OCUFA), and two members of the Toronto and York Region Labour Council, President John Cartwright and Andria Babbington. Mary had a chance to meet with them and to take pictures of the insightful panel and the equally interesting members at her table.



“Bill C-51, The Anti-Terrorism Act, forms the core of the most comprehensive reforms to the Canada’s national security laws since 2001. Widely expanded powers and new criminal offences raise serious human rights concerns” (Amnesty International).

The protest brought together thousands of people who are concerned about human rights and privacy rights. The main slogan of the rally was “We are here to reject fear.”



## Upcoming Events

To watch live, register at

[www.cupe.on.ca](http://www.cupe.on.ca)

Best wishes for a wonderful summer

Your CUPE Executive

## 52nd CUPE Ontario Convention

May 27 - 30, 2015



SOLIDARITY  
AGAINST AUSTERITY



SOLIDARITÉ  
CONTRE L'AUSTÉRITÉ

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