

March 2007

TO: ALL AFFILIATES



**BUILDING BRIDGES INSTEAD OF FENCES:
THE FIRST ABORIGINAL GATHERING
CROWNE PLAZA TORONTO DON VALLEY
1250 EGLINTON AVEUNE EAST
TORONTO, ONTARIO
JUNE 12 – 14, 2007**

Greetings:

Building Bridges instead of Fences: The First Aboriginal Gathering is sponsored by the Ontario Federation of Labour (OFL). The conference is scheduled for Tuesday evening, June 12, Wednesday, June 13 (all day session) and Thursday, June 14 (half day session) at Crowne Plaza Toronto Don Valley, 1250 Eglinton Avenue East, Toronto. The conference is designed to dispel the myths and focus on the realities facing the Aboriginal community. The conference is open to **all** trade union members and community groups.

The goals of the conference are:

- To acknowledge Aboriginal people's culture.
- To dispel the myths and have open discussions about the realities facing the Aboriginal people on a daily basis.
- To build support and solidarity networks within labour and the community.
- To encourage Aboriginal participation in their unions and communities.

A conference registration form is enclosed. The conference registration fee is \$150.00. Please note that **the deadline for conference registration is June 1, 2007**. Please send the completed registration form together with your cheque payable to "**OFL Aboriginal Gathering**". We expect space will be limited and registrations will be accepted on a first-come first-serve basis.

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Conference participants are responsible for making their own hotel arrangements. The Crowne Plaza Toronto Don Valley has reserved a block of rooms for us at \$129.00 plus tax per night until **May 20, 2007** after which they will be placed back to their general inventory. **To book a room please call (416) 449-4111 or toll free at 1-877-474-6835** and mention that you are the delegates attending the OFL conference.

Child Care

It is OFL policy that we will provide child care services if more than ten children are registered for this service. **The deadline for the child care registration is May 31, 2007**, as we must make these arrangements separately with the child care provider. We have enclosed a **Child Care Registration Form**.

Accommodation

Accommodation can be provided for delegates with disabilities if advance notice is received. If services are needed, please complete and return the attached **Personal Assistance Request Form and return it to us by May 31, 2007**.

Allergy Alert Notice

As is OFL policy, this conference will be scent free to ensure the active involvement of those with chemical sensitivity.

Additional information and registration forms may be obtained from the OFL website at www.ofl.ca or by contacting Margaret Law at (416) 443-7656 or toll-free at 1-800-668-9138.

In solidarity,

TERRY DOWNEY
Executive Vice-President

cc. W. Samuelson, I. Harris
OFL Executive Board and Council
OFL Staff

Attachments

TD/JG/ml/cope343



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DRAFT AGENDA

TUESDAY, JUNE 12, 2007 (EVENING)

- 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Registration
- 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. • Welcome
(Ethel Birkett-LaValley, retired OFL Secretary-Treasurer)
- Aboriginal Circle
(Tim Brown and OFL Aboriginal Persons Committee)
- 9:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Meet and Greet (light refreshments)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13, 2007 (9:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M.)

- 9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. • Opening Conference
(Co-chairs: Tim Brown, OFL Vice President
representing Aboriginal people and
Roxanne General, CEP)
- Welcome
Terry Downey, OFL Executive Vice-President
- Welcome
Wanda Whitebird
- 9:45 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. Gonrah White Pine Dancers (bring the dance, songs
and stories of the First Nations people)
- 10:15 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Break

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13, 2007 (9:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M.)

10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Workshops
12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Lunch (provided)
1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Workshops
3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Darren Thomas (cultural event)
4:00 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. Wrap Up
7:00 p.m. Aboriginal Circle (optional)

THURSDAY, JUNE 14, 2007 (9:00 A.M. TO 1:30 P.M.)

9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Workshops
10:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. Break
10:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Aboriginal Circle and Wrap Up