

May, 2009



DRIVE TO WORK CARAVAN June 8 - 25, 2009

The OFL's DRIVE TO WORK (DRV2WRK) is a province-wide tour to find out how the recession is really affecting working people. Along the way we will talk with thousands of Ontarians and listen to what they say on the need to preserve and create good jobs and maintain strong public services for healthy communities. We will gather your input - stories, videos, letters and ideas over three weeks and bring your messages to the Premier.

"It seems like the people and communities who have suffered the most during this recession have not had their voices heard," says OFL president Wayne Samuelson. "The thousands of people who have been put out of work by the global financial meltdown have seen every corner of their lives affected." "Workers have seen their futures not just at risk, but literally in peril. Their houses drastically losing value, pension income cut in half and no employment insurance after years of paying into the system. After a lifetime of hard work and planning for the future there's nothing and no one working **for** them anymore."

The OFL, affiliated unions, community partners such as faith groups, anti-poverty groups, are joining together on the DRV2WRK Caravan and going on the road to over 50 communities from June 8 – 25 so people can have their say.

The DRIVE TO WORK Caravan will be launched from two points, Kenora and Oshawa on June 8 and finish in Toronto on June 25. The Caravan will be flying OFL flags and DRV2WRK flags so please join us for part of the trip or the whole 3,000 km. At some point on the three week tour we should be in your vicinity.

Preparation for the DRV2WRK campaign has been a huge undertaking but it has also given us a chance to get to know hundreds of our members from many, many unions and local allies who have been attending OFL regional meetings. Thank you to everyone who has participated so far and to all of you who will be joining us along the way.

We are in the preliminary planning stages for major events in Sudbury, Windsor and Hamilton. A DRV2WRK website will be launched the first week of June with a map to track the progress of the caravan as it travels throughout Ontario. The website will give you a chance to link up with the caravan. You can have your say, join the blog, watch videos from the tour and check out the itinerary for the 3,000 km. tour.

From Kenora to Kingston, from Smooth Rock Falls to Smiths Falls, from Wawa to Windsor, people with something to say can speak and be heard.

Communities all across Ontario are reeling from the economic storm that has hit our province,



Canada and the world. Thousands and thousands of people have lost their jobs. Cities and towns are on red alert as public services are cut back at a time when people and communities need them most.

It's time to tell the stories behind the statistics. No one and no community is alone in this struggle.

Please join us for any part or all of the DRIVE TO WORK.



Ontario Federation of Labour staff are working all across Ontario on the DRV2WRK Caravan. If you want information about the Caravan in your area please contact our staff.

Northwest: Kenora, Dryden, Fort Frances, Atikokan, Thunder Bay, Nipigon, Terrace Bay, Marathon
Sandra Clifford 416.573.0623 (cell) sclifford@ofl.ca

Lake Superior: Wawa, Sault Ste. Marie, Elliot Lake, Espanola, Sudbury
Vern Edwards 416.578.4258 (cell) vedwards@ofl.ca

Northeast: Geraldton, Longlac, Hearst, Kapuskasing, Smooth Rock Falls, Iroquois Falls, Timmins, Kirkland Lake, Englehart, New Liskeard, Sturgeon Falls, Cochrane
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Southwest: Woodstock, Ingersoll, Sarnia, London, Windsor, Chatham, St. Thomas, Wallaceburg, Tilbury
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Hamilton/Niagara/Waterloo Regions: Brampton, Kitchener, Cambridge, Brantford, St. Catharines, Jarvis, Stoney Creek, Hamilton
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Southeast: Oshawa, Peterborough, Belleville, Kingston, Smith Falls, Brockville, Cornwall, Hawkesbury, Ottawa, Renfrew, Pembroke, North Bay
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The Drive to Work tour is coming to over 50 cities in Ontario with over 100 events planned.
Find out more: www.drivetowork.ca