

Connecting ...

Message from Labour

Congratulations to all the volunteers and staff of United Way for their efforts in achieving another successful year. It never ceases to amaze me how the fundraising goals for each year are surpassed. I am also grateful for the tremendous work of labour volunteers both in the workplace and through the allocations process to ensure that we are able to support so many vital services in our community.

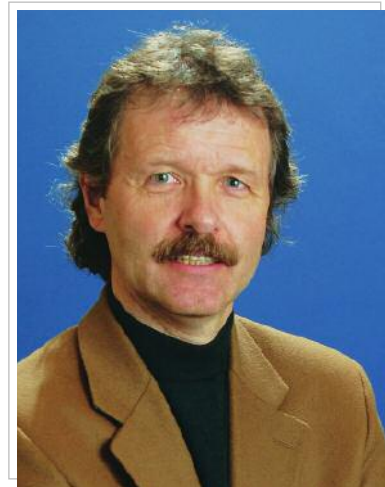
What became increasingly obvious in 2006 was how wide the income gap has become within our population. The labour movement has focused on raising the minimum wage to \$10 an hour—the level which is widely accepted as being the threshold of poverty wages. In a series of town hall meetings held across Toronto we heard heartbreaking stories of people working two and three jobs just to make ends meet, and it is clear that employment standards and organizing rights need to be addressed if people are to improve their lives.

There are indeed two solitudes in our city, and we need to find many different avenues to bridge them if we are to have a decent future together. United Way is better positioned than any other organization to help bridge this divide. It is up to every one of us to learn more about what is really happening in the Toronto of the twenty-first century, and then use our collective resources to craft the solutions that are so urgently required.



Photo: Toronto Transit Commission

Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) employees go to bat for United Way, October 2006.



John Cartwright
President, Toronto and York Region Labour Council

... with our labour volunteers



The City of Toronto was awarded the Labour Participation Award, Public Sector for their strong effort during the 2006 Campaign. The long history of strong collaboration with its unions in running successful campaigns was no match for the 26,000 geographically dispersed workforces who promoted the Community Fund throughout campaign. Large-scale kick-off events and effective use of agency speakers along with a successful pledge campaign secured this award.

Pictured: Sasha Adler-Romm, City of Toronto; John Cartwright, President, Toronto & York Region Labour Council; Angela Stevens, Canadian Union of Postal Workers, Toronto Local; and Leila Gobin, City of Toronto.

Awards winners: City of Toronto & Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 79; Toronto Civic Employees Union Local 416; Toronto Professional Fire Fighters Association Local 3888; City of Toronto Administrative, Professional & Supervisory Association Inc.; COTAPSAI.



The Toronto Star ran an exemplary joint union-management campaign in 2006 and in recognition of their hard work was awarded the Labour Participation Award, Private Sector. All five unions were represented on the campaign committee and its members and volunteers represent the diversity of their workforce and organizational structure.

Pictured: Dean Benjamin, Toronto Star; John Cartwright, President, Toronto & York Region Labour Council; Angela Stevens, Canadian Union of Postal Workers, Toronto Local and Lawrence Marzari, Toronto Star.

Awards winners: Toronto Star & GCC/IBT Graphic Communications Conference/International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 100M; Communications, Energy, and Paperworkers Union of Canada, Local 87-M, Southern Ontario Newsmedia Guild; Communications, Energy, and Paperworkers Union of Canada, Local 500G (covering Photoengravers) International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 353; International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers, Local 235.