

**The Ontario Employment  
Education and Research Centre**



**OEEERC**

**ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2015-16**

# Working together with our community partners in 2015-16



## WORKERS' ACTION CENTRE

### PROTECTING WORKERS' RIGHTS

Supported workers to know and enforce their rights through community workshops, plain language factsheets, support clinics, information sessions and a telephone hotline

### RAISING AWARENESS

95 media moments on the issues facing workers in low wage and precarious work

Informed thousands of Ontarians on workers' rights issues through public speaking, information tables, and community outreach at a wide range of venues

Managed a variety of social media tools to inform and engage

Supported the coordination of and communications for the "\$15 & Fairness" campaign, advocating for legislative reforms to the Ontario Employment Standards Act as part of the Ontario government's *Changing Workplaces Review*

### DEVELOPING LEADERSHIP

Delivered a range of leadership training opportunities for workers directly affected by low wages and precarious work

Established and supported a 12-month paid Senior Leader Internship program for five workers

Facilitated monthly community organizing meetings in downtown Toronto and Scarborough to strengthen peer supports and provide a forum for discussion and learning

Supported workers to bring their issues and concerns to the attention of local members of parliament and Ministry of Labour officials

### BUILDING CAPACITY

Supported a network of organizers from 45 cities across Ontario to raise awareness of workers' issues in their local communities

Provided mentoring and organizational support to both grassroots and established organizations on community organizing

Hosted a provincial conference of over 150 participants to share strategies to ensure the voices of workers are heard in the *Changing Workplaces Review*

Supported the launch of an ambitious 9-month organizer training program - **Feet on the Ground** - mentoring 31 community organizers from neighbourhoods across Toronto, as well as the communities of Brampton, Cambridge, Ottawa, Peterborough and Sudbury

### PARTICIPATING IN RESEARCH

Ensured that workers' perspectives influenced academic research projects on workers' rights issues



## Caregivers' Action Centre

### PROTECTING WORKERS' RIGHTS

Organized free legal clinics and workshops for caregivers to receive legal support and learn about their rights

### RAISING AWARENESS

Raised awareness through media interviews and public presentations on the issues faced by live-in caregivers as a result of the recent changes on the federal level

CAC members made deputations at the public consultations for the *Changing Workplaces Review* about the issues facing live-in caregivers

### DEVELOPING LEADERSHIP

Continued to develop the skills and leadership of this peer-led organization to speak out in the media, make public panel presentations and facilitate workers' rights workshops

### BUILDING CAPACITY

Developed and managed a communications network of over 2000 caregivers utilizing smart phone technology



## Migrant Workers Alliance for Change

### PROTECTING WORKERS' RIGHTS

Conducted trainings for organizations in communities across southern Ontario to increase their capacity to engage with their local migrant worker community and provide support

### DEVELOPING LEADERSHIP

Facilitated the development of a network for migrant workers to share information and further their civic engagement

Developed and presented a 2-day training session for 15 leaders on 'envisioning a just immigration system' and how to facilitate a similar discussion in their community – ultimately engaging over 200 community members

### RAISING AWARENESS

Developed materials and conducted workshops for migrant workers and service providers across the province on the impact of the "4 in & 4 out" rule which limits the length of time a migrant worker can work in Canada

Supported migrant workers to speak out in the media about the impact of the "4 in & 4 out" rule

Migrant workers and their supporters met 6 times with the Provincial Government's Special Advisors to the *Changing Workplaces Review*

### BUILDING CAPACITY

Identified and built relationships with a wide range of community organizations in Southern Ontario providing support to migrant workers, and developed a methodology to map their level of engagement – called "Stages of Centering Worker Leadership"

Spearheaded the foundation of Canada's first national migrant worker coalition, the *Coalition for Migrant Worker Rights Canada*

Hosted a gathering of Farm Workers and Caregivers from across Ontario, including a meeting with Domestic Workers Alliance (USA) and International Domestic Workers Federation (Hong Kong)

Identified key issues and barriers facing migrant workers trying to access their rights to labour, health, and other social services and developed a "best practices guide" to improve service delivery in communities across Ontario

Supported existing migrant worker led organizations to strengthen their relationships with workers and connections with referral resources



## Justicia for Migrant Workers

### PROTECTING WORKERS' RIGHTS

Delivered workshops on legal rights and resources for migrant workers in communities across southwestern Ontario

Supported migrant workers to individually and collectively resolve workplace violations and facilitated connections with legal supports and community services

### RAISING AWARENESS

Organized community events with migrant workers and their local community allies to build trust, develop leadership, and encourage the sharing of knowledge and strengthening of relationships



## Sudbury Workers Education & Advocacy Centre

### PROTECTING WORKERS' RIGHTS

Delivered workshops and presentations on legal rights and resources, with special emphasis on outreach to the indigenous and francophone communities

### BUILDING CAPACITY

Building relationships with indigenous leaders and communities in the Greater Sudbury area

## The OEERC would like to thank our Funders for 2015-16

The Atkinson Charitable Foundation  
The Catherine Donnelly Foundation  
The George Cedric Metcalf Charitable Foundation  
The Maytree Foundation

Thanks to all of our community allies who made our 4th annual *Workers' Bowl* fundraising event such an incredible success!  
And a special thanks to our private donors for their extraordinary personal commitment to furthering workers' rights awareness and supports.

## Board of Directors

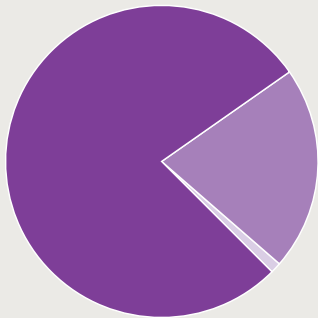
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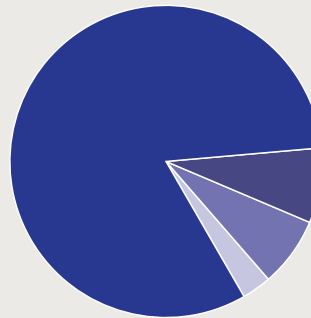
MEMBERS  
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## Financials



### Income \$811,014

Foundations	78%
Donations	21%
Other	1%



### Expenditures \$902,819

Education, support and community development	82%
Research & advocacy	8%
Administration	7%
Fundraising	3%

Excerpt from audited statements prepared by Cowperthwaite, Mehta Chartered Accountants. Full audited statements are available on request.

At the OEERC, we believe that the most effective public education and support happens at the community level. Thus we deliver our programming utilizing the expertise of organizations with a proven record of developing and delivering accessible public education on workplace rights, as well as a commitment to the development of peer networks and community leaders to extend the learning and support.



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