



What is Workers Action Movement?

Founded in 2017 by members of the Ontario Public Service Employees' Union, the Workers' Action Movement (WAM) is a movement of rank and file militant trade unionists. We believe OPSEU has shifted to the right. There seems to be no break from concessions bargaining. There seems to be no end to the decline in union democracy, nor to the growing use of intimidation tactics by the union leadership. Members say loud and clear: We can't make ends meet. We've had enough of the status quo. The Executive Board ignores members' voices. The union is broken and we must fix it! Now more than ever, a class struggle movement is needed. We are committed to building an organized left wing, a class struggle caucus within OPSEU and all unions. We are ready to look the bureaucrats directly in the eye and challenge their regressive policies. We are committed to strengthening ourselves through engagement with members on several key issues. We will contest union elections on a political basis, wherever we are able. In this respect, we are an organization of the youth and of the future, part of the movement that is emerging to challenge relentless capitalist austerity. It's common for careerists and political thugs to be found in the major political parties and corporations, but we will no longer tolerate these bad actors in our unions!

What is at stake right now in Ontario?

Right now the stakes are very high for the working class in Ontario. While still not recovered from the vicious neoliberal attacks of the Harris years, we have hobbled along with cutbacks, rising debt, and the increasing privatization of public services during the last 15 years of Liberal rule. After laying out the red carpet for Doug Ford at the head of the so-called Progressive Conservative Party, the Liberals have been decimated (hopefully to never recover) and the NDP is the official parliamentary opposition in Ontario. \$1 beer and .10 cent gas savings are a cruel populist gimmick foisted on workers beaten down by capitalist austerity and disillusioned by an ineffective left opposition in the form of the NDP and the labour bureaucracy.

What are the possibilities of an effective fightback?

We cannot rely on the parliamentary criticisms of the NDP and favorable newspaper editorials to defeat the coming attacks on our unions, communities and workplaces. This must be done with mass action and coordinated strikes to bring Ford and his cronies to their knees. We don't have to wait until the next election to defeat the right wing neoliberal government at Queen's park. In fact if sit back and do nothing, the damage will be that much worse. We cannot be that irresponsible to the coming generation. We shouldn't make the same mistakes labour did with Harris, when the leadership called off mass action in favour of an electoral solution. That enabled the PC's to win government again. See the resolution on the back of this leaflet. Present it to your local union and/or community group.

What is the leadership saying?

Much of the current labour leadership is either staying silent in the face of Ford Nation or openly telling their members to stand down and not provoke "confrontations" with Ford. Some even admit to being in private discussions with the Ford government to help mitigate the coming "sting". This approach is utterly demoralizing. It is a crass betrayal of the rank and file, who will bear the brunt of the "\$6 billion in efficiencies" while the labour aristocracy worries about its privileges.

Globally, with growing climate change and continuing imperialist wars of aggression, it's clear the window to create a better world is getting smaller. But hope is not lost, mass movements of youth have organized around figures such as Jeremy Corbyn in the UK, Melenchon in France, and Bernie Sanders in the United States. With a focus on rank and file organizing and the development of a militant class struggle left wing, we can ignite a spark right here in Ontario to combat the vile politics of Doug Ford.

Let's build a real movement worthy of the respect of the working class.

Let's be unequivocal in our demands for a better society, and defend past gains with vigour while pushing the boundaries of what the bosses say is possible or "realistic."

Events:

Join us on labour day, September 3rd in Toronto, where WAM will be marching in the OPSEU contingent.

Join us at the WAM conference Saturday, Sept 29 at the OPSEU Wellesley Street East membership center. (More information to come)

Join us Saturday August 11th to confront the racists and fascists at Toronto City Hall (these scumbags, encouraged by the election of Ford and a rising tide of hate crimes occurring in Ontario since the election, are flying in from Calgary. Let's show them that their hate and bigotry will not be tolerated in Ontario).

If you identify with the movement for change, get in touch, and let's WAM it to the bosses. We have a world to win!

For an Emergency Convention of the OFL – For a Mass Action plan to Stop the Doug Ford/PC gov't agenda

Below is a resolution that unions, NDP EDAs, social justice movements and all working class organizations can discuss and adopt. Why now? If working class organizations go on record now in favour of mass action opposition to the Ford/Conservative agenda in Ontario, and for a democratic united front of resistance to capitalist austerity, it will help to prepare and coordinate the next phase of struggle. Do you agree that this can be a useful tool in our tool kit, to connect with rank and file workers, fighters against oppression of every kind, and social justice movements?

Be it resolved that (...fill in your union, NDP association and/or community organization) request that the Ontario Federation of Labour hold an emergency convention to adopt an action plan to confront and defeat the Doug Ford – Progressive Conservative government agenda.

Be it further resolved that (your union, etc.) commits to respond with mass protests, including rallies, demonstrations and job actions, up to and including sectoral and general strikes, against Doug Ford - PC government attacks on public services, civil liberties, equity seeking groups, unions and non-organized workers in this province. We believe that all unions and social justice partners, in anticipation of serious cuts to jobs and services, should go on immediate strike alert and build a broad, democratic united front of resistance.

For information, call: 647-986-1917

