

Labour Rights are Human Rights international symposium

UFCW Canada was one of four sponsors of an important international symposium entitled Labour Rights Are Human Rights, held on Nov. 19-21 at the Marriott Hotel in Ottawa.

The featured speaker were Ed Broadbent, former president of Rights and Democracy and former leader of the federal New Democratic Party in Canada.

Others noted speakers included Elaine Bernard, executive director of the Labor and Worklife Program (LWP) and the Trade Union Program (TUP) at Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass.; Alan Spaulding, director of global affairs and president of the Union Network International (UNI) commerce section; Patrick Carrière, former senior official of the standards department of the International Labour Organization; Fred Van Leeuwen, general secretary of Education International (EI); Mary Beth Maxwell, executive director of the American Rights Work; Dr. Michael Lynk of the University of Western Ontario Law School; Judy Fudge of the University of Victoria Law School and Paul Cavalluzzo of the Toronto law firm Cavalluzzo, Hayes, Shilton, McIntyre and Cornish.

Sponsoring the symposium jointly with UFCW Canada were the National Union of Public and General Employees (NUPGE) NUPGE the Canadian Teachers Federation (CTF), and the Canadian Police Association (CPA).

Topics on the agenda included:

- Private and Public Sector Unions: Why are we in this together?
- The Role of Unions in Promoting Democracy and Economic Prosperity
- The Attack on Workers' Rights: Part of an international phenomenon
- Supreme Court Guarantee of the Right to Collective Bargaining: What does it mean for the future of our labour rights?