



GLRC Weekly Announcements

June 12, 2020

Welcome to the Global Labour Research Centre (GLRC) Weekly Announcements where you will find news, publications, events, and other information related to work and labour. An [archive](#) of the Weekly Announcements is available on our website.

If you would like to submit any items, please email us at glrc@yorku.ca.

GLRC RESEARCHERS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

- The murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis and suspicious death of Regis Korchinski-Paquet in Toronto have brought the police defunding and abolition movements to the mainstream. While the wide budget gaps between police services and other expenditures are being [revealed](#), the powerful conserving and conservative influence of police unions has also gained some attention. **In an [article published in January of this year](#), two GLRC researchers, Mark P. Thomas (Associate Professor, Sociology, York University) and Steven Tufts (Associate Professor, Geography, York University), propose “that organised labour maintain a critical distance from police unions”.** Thomas and Tufts state in their abstract, “...this article argues that the construction of ‘blue solidarity’, including through recent Blue Lives Matter campaigns, serves to repress racial justice movements that challenge police authority, acts as a counter to broader working class resistance to austerity and contributes to rising right-wing populism.” For recent media articles on police unions and anti-Black racism, see the New York Times ([here](#) and [here](#)) and [Public Integrity](#). See also the Canadian Labour Congress recording noted below.

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION OPPORTUNITIES

- We are excited to announce **the GLRC has collaborated with the [Canadian Association for Work and Labour Studies \(CAWLS\)](#) to launch the New Voices in Work & Labour Studies Workshop Series, a weekly online workshop series that will take place on selected days from October 19 to November 13, 2020.** Building on the New Voices in Work and Labour Studies stream of the annual CAWLS conference, this online series is designed to promote the scholarship of new scholars (graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, and faculty/researchers in the first five years of their

appointment). Our goal is to create a series reflective of the wide range of themes and methodological and theoretical approaches pertaining to the study of work and labour. The deadline for proposals is August 21, 2020. Please see the [Call for Proposals](#) for more details.

- **The Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) issued [updated proposal guidelines](#) for the Exceptional Opportunities Fund – COVID-19 competition.** This competition is open to proposals from all disciplines that can demonstrate a direct and immediate impact on current and pressing research issues related to COVID-19. This may include, but is not limited to, research in epidemiology, virology, vaccine development, diagnostics, therapeutic devices, mental health, social and economic policy and public health response. The deadline for proposals is July 6, 2020.

NEWS

- **The [Migrant Worker Health Expert Working Group](#) put out a [press release](#) on June 8th on the recent death of a migrant worker, Bonifacio Eugenio Romero, due to COVID-19.** Romero was 31 years old with no pre-existing health conditions. The Expert Working Group have dedicated their new migrant workers support [website](#) to the memory of Romero.
- **Statistics Canada recently released a [report](#) of their Labour Force Survey, May 2020 measuring labour market impacts as COVID-19 restrictions gradually ease.** They found that “In May, more than one-third (34.8%) of the potential labour force was fully or partially underutilized, down slightly from 36.6% in April, but considerably higher than the 11.9% observed in February.”
- **On June 12th, the Government of Ontario [announced](#) they will be investing \$15 million into health and safety measures for farm operations** under the [Enhanced Agri-food Workplace Protection Program](#). The GLRC invites short analyses (up to 500 words) of the government’s new plan to be posted on our COVID-19 resource page which will be live soon. Please send your responses to glrc@yorku.ca.
- **On June 10th, the Government of Ontario unveiled a [plan](#) to gradually reopen postsecondary institutions for the summer term.** They say, “This first phase will allow institutions to reopen to provide in-person instruction to students in essential, frontline, and high labour market demand areas, such as nursing, personal support workers, engineering, and other critical professions.”
- **On June 1st, the Government of Ontario announced a new [regulatory amendment](#) that will put non-unionized employees on Infectious Disease Emergency Leave during the COVID-19 outbreak any time their hours of work are temporarily reduced by their employer due to COVID-19.** See the full legislation [here](#).

EVENTS

- **The Migrant Rights Network is holding a country-wide digital rally this Sunday June 14th at 12:00 pm ET with its member organizations.** You can find more information and a link to RSVP [here](#).
- **[Canadian Labour Congress \(CLC\)](#) Secretary-Treasurer Marie Clarke Walker hosted a discussion with CLC Executive VP Larry Rousseau and Black Lives Matter – Canada founder Sandy Hudson on June**

10th about anti-Black racism and the role that Canada's unions can play in the struggle for change.
A voice recording of the webinar is available [here](#).

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