



HEALTHCARE SPOTLIGHT: >> page 2

Also inside: TREAT FOREIGN WORKERS FAIRLY >> page 4



VOLUME 2, NO.10

[WWW.UNIFOR.ORG](http://WWW.UNIFOR.ORG)

MAY 22, 2014

# uniforum



National President Jerry Dias records a video about the Ontario election. To see the video and for other information, go to [www.unifor.org/ONvotes](http://www.unifor.org/ONvotes).

## Vote to keep Hudak out

The primary objective in the current Ontario election is to keep Progressive Conservative Leader Tim Hudak from becoming premier, Unifor National President Jerry Dias says.

To do that, he is urging Unifor members to vote for incumbent NDP candidates, or the local

>> Continued on page 3

## Unifor activism saves Via Rail line

After a months-long campaign led by Unifor activists in New Brunswick, the federal government has agreed to provide funding to repair train tracks between Miramichi and Bathurst which will allow passenger rail service to

continue in the Maritimes.

The campaign to save passenger rail service was launched by Unifor and led by Local 4000, Local 100 and local union activists.

They worked tirelessly with mayors, municipal councils and the public to raise awareness about the necessity of this service.

"The effects of abandoning this section of track would have had a devastating impact on so many communities along the ocean route," said Jerry Dias, National President of Unifor.

>> Continued on page 3

## Companies sue over wage increases

Nearly three dozen BC trucking companies are banding together to seek a court judgment about the legality of new wage rates imposed by Port Metro Vancouver.

A successful strike in March by Unifor's BC

>> Continued on page 3

## #unifor

Here's a selection of tweets about @UniforTheUnion

@Tony\_Tracy : Workers' rights the focus of @UniforTheUnion's national #healthcare conference in #Halifax: [bit.ly/RovpvA](http://bit.ly/RovpvA) | #NSpoli #canlab #Unifor

@cherriprobinson: Unifor 2002 rally today at Pearson for former workers of IMPARK demanding termination pay #unifor2002 #unifor



## In brief

### Local 252, Nestle settle strike

After a one-week strike, members of Unifor Local 252 in Toronto have ratified a three-year collective agreement that includes wage increases and improvements to the pension plan.

The local was able to negotiate significant improvements in increasing the defined benefit pensions plan's base rate for future and past service for all workers, plus a special increase for skilled trades in the pension plan.

There is a \$500 bonus in the first year followed by 47-cent wage increases in the second and third years.

The union was also successful in eliminating agency workers, requiring the company to create about 44 full time jobs. Many agency workers will be hired in the full time positions.

The 365 members, who make such chocolate bars as Kit Kat and Aero, went on strike May 5. They had been in a legal strike position since May 3. The deal was ratified May 12

The company had demanded an end to the defined benefit plan for 25 per cent of current employees and all future employees.

## Photo spotlight: Healthcare

SUBMIT YOUR PHOTOS TO [COMMUNICATIONS@UNIFOR.ORG](mailto:COMMUNICATIONS@UNIFOR.ORG)



PHOTO BY JENNIFER ROWSOM

Unifor represents 26,000 workers across health care and social services.

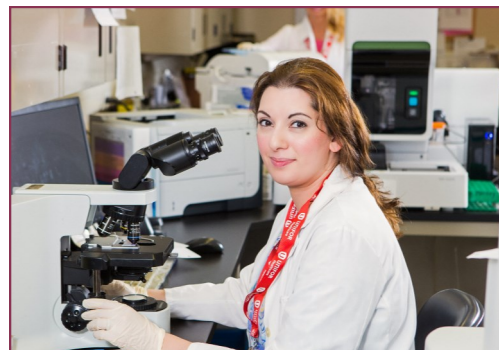


PHOTO BY JENNIFER ROWSOM

Unifor held a national healthcare conference in Halifax, Nova Scotia

### Workers locked out

Despite attempts by Unifor to keep contract talks going, workers at soap manufacturer JemPak GK Inc. in Oakville were locked out by the company May 15.

Security guards escorted the workers off the property today at around noon.

At issue is a company demand that the union representing the 22

workers, Unifor Local 132-O, agree that any new hires are not members of the union, that managers be able to do work currently done by union members and an end to seniority rights.

"We are ready to go back to work at any time, and to return to the bargaining table to work out a reasonable deal," said Unifor Local 132-O President Brian Bartlett.

"We cannot accept any deal that lessens our ability to represent workers at the plant."

Bartlett said the union had worked with a conciliator to set a new day for talks on the eve of the lockout, but were told by the conciliator that the company would not meet.

The company has also demanded deep economic cuts.

### Unifor statement on mining disaster

Unifor, which represents miners in Canada, sends its deepest condolences and support to the families of miners killed and trapped in the recent mining disaster in Turkey.

The harrowing image of rescuers pulling bodies from the ground and lifting back blankets for desperate families to see the faces is a stark reminder of the need for strong safety laws across the mining industry.

Turkey has a history of mining deaths, but none in 20 years as deadly as the May 13 explosion at a coal

mine in the western town of Soma - where more than 300 workers were killed.

Every miner and miner's family knows what those families, and the entire community, are going through. Few mining families have not been touched by tragedy underground.

Protesters took to the streets in Ankara and Istanbul demanding strong action by their government to ensure the lessons of this disaster are not lost and mining is made safer in their country. Police

responded with tear gas and water cannons.

Unifor stands with the protesters, and calls on the Turkish government to heed the advice of its people and bring in the strict laws that will prevent such tragedies in the future.

Mining may be dangerous work, but strong health and safety laws backed up by a government committed to protecting workers' can prevent that danger from becoming disaster.

UNIFOR COMMUNICATIONS - KATIE ARNUP, SARAH BLACKSTOCK, IAN BOYKO, SHELLEY BURGoyNE, SHANNON DEVINE, MARIE-ANDRÉE L'HEUREUX, STUART LAIDLAW, AND ANNE MARIE VINCENT

>> Continued from  
"Unifor activism..."  
on page 1

"This decision not only saves passenger rail service to the Maritimes, but will also stabilize jobs in the region and recognizes the importance of public transit," said Lana Payne, Atlantic Regional Director for Unifor. "Our members mobilized and were instrumental in making this happen. Our thanks also to the federal NDP Opposition for their critical support!"

"This is a great day for us because we know how important this service is to Maritimers," said Patrick Murray, representative from Unifor Local 4000. "We are proud that we played a part in making this happen and making sure that our communities stay connected. U

>> Continued from  
"Companies sue..."  
on page 1

container truck drivers led to a joint action plan negotiated by Unifor with Port Metro Vancouver, the BC government, and the federal government.

Part of the action plan guaranteed a 12 per cent rate increase for drivers, something the plaintiff trucking companies aren't willing to support. The companies argue that rate regulation is outside of federal jurisdiction.

"Unifor's efforts brought labour peace and economic stability to the nation's largest port," said Gavin McGarrigle, Unifor's BC area director. "This lawsuit is a reckless and ill-conceived move by a minority of trucking companies who don't want to pay fair wages."



The plan also secured higher reimbursement for drivers stuck waiting in line at the port, something that terminal operators are

resisting.

"It just shows these groups seem to prefer chaos over stability," said McGarrigle. U

### Can work be safe when home isn't?

You can help - Be part of this historic initiative to collect much-needed Canadian data  
The survey is available in English and French until June 6, 2014. Anyone 15 years or older, whether or not they have experienced violence, can participate in the survey. To learn more about the project and fill out the anonymous survey visit: [http://fluidsurveys.com/s/DVatWork/?ct=t%28Survey\\_Followup12\\_3\\_2013%29](http://fluidsurveys.com/s/DVatWork/?ct=t%28Survey_Followup12_3_2013%29)

>> Continued from  
"Vote to keep Hudak  
out"  
on page 1

candidate most likely to beat the Conservative candidate.

"This is an election like no other," Dias said. "The threat that labour faces in this election from the potential of Hudak becoming premier is greater than we've seen before."

Dias said Hudak cannot be trusted. He will attack workers' rights, implement cuts to health care and give more power to corporations over everyday necessities including energy and health services.

And while Hudak has backed away from plans to scrap the Rand formula in Ontario, he has been clear in his continued support for

the plan, Dias said, adding that if Ontario starts restricting basic labour rights other provinces will soon follow suit.

Dias called Hudak's million jobs plan unbelievable and unrealistic, and said his pledge to fire 100,000 public sector workers would throw the province into recession while gutting education, increasing class sizes and hurting access to health care.

While strategic voting has always been controversial, Dias said more unions are on board with the idea in this election.

"There is strong support for this strategy across the labour movement," Dias said. "The stakes are just too high. U

## Two locals win awards

Two Unifor locals took home top awards at the Canadian Association of Labour Media conference held recently in Montreal.

Local 222 in Oshawa was recognized as having the Best Website, Volunteer category for its efforts to provide a site for their members that provides plenty of content without being confusing to navigate.

"This Unifor local had a clear site design making it easy to access and discover content. It was apparent that they went above and beyond the stock design of the CMS software, and added many additional elements without making the site look junky," the judges said.

Check out their web site at <http://local222.ca>.

In the Best Use of social Media, Local 4451 in Stratford, Ontario, took the top award in the volunteer category for its Facebook page.

"The content posted to this page is all relevant to the local. Notices for local events are posted, news is shared that seems directly relevant to members, and there is almost always a well written comment to personalize the content that is shared," the judges said.

Check out their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Unifor4451>. U



## New appointments

### Western Regional Director

**Joie Warnock**, a national representative working out of the BC office, has been appointed Western Regional Director, effective immediately. This is an interim appointment until an election for the position can be held at Canadian Council in September.

### Directors

**Corey Vermey**, a national representative in the


Pensions and Benefits Department, has been appointed Director of Health Care, effective immediately.

**Roland Kiehne**, Membership Mobilization & Campaigns Director, will also be Retired Workers' Department Director, effective immediately.

**John Breslin**, a national representative, has been appointed Director of the Skilled Trades Department, effective immediately.

### Departments

**Sam Vrankulj**, Unifor Local 5555 education committee chair, has been appointed a national representative in the Education Department, effective immediately, working out of the National office.

**Barb Dolan**, a national representative in the Women's Department, will also be working in the Retired Workers' Department, effective immediately. 

## New members

*Oneida Nation of the Thames Long Term Care Home*, London, ON, -74 members.

*Abednego Environmental Services LLP*, Oakville, ON, -4 members.

*Mercedes-Benz Canada Inc.*, Newmarket, ON -18 members.

*Dryden Volunteer Recruitment Centre*, Dryden, ON, - 8 members 

## Unifor supports Wayne Gates in re-election bid

Long-time former Unifor Local 199 president and former Niagara Falls City Councillor Wayne Gates is standing for re-election in the Niagara Falls riding in Ontario.

Gates won the seat in the February by-election, bringing an NDP seat to the riding for the first time in 19 years.

He is now campaigning for re-election in the Ontario general election on


June 12.

Gates is a strong proponent of "Buy Ontario" procurement policies, believing in government's ability to spend public monies locally to create meaningful employment.

As a local union leader, he was also a member of the CAW-General Motors Master Bargaining Committee for a number of rounds of challenging negotiations, securing work

for the St. Catharines GM operations.

Gates has also been a vocal advocate of quality, universal, publicly funded health care and has been involved in a number of community organizations, including taking a lead role in the local United Way campaign.

To find out more about Gates, to donate or get involved in his campaign, please visit: [www.waynegates.com](http://www.waynegates.com). 



## Let temporary workers immigrate permanently

Raising wages for workers in the temporary foreign workers program and increasing the fees paid by companies is a good start, but does nothing to make the workers any less vulnerable, Unifor National President Jerry Dias says.

"This program takes advantage of the desperation of workers in other countries, forcing them to leave their families for jobs in Canada," Dias said, adding that promises to crack down on abuses of

the program don't address its fundamental problems.

Dias called for the program to transition into one that allows the workers involved to stay in Canada permanently. Canada has a long and proud history of people coming here to build a better life for their families, said Dias.

"The difference is that they could build that life with their families. The workers in this program deserve the same opportunity," Dias said. "If

they are good enough to work here, they are good enough to live here with their families."

Workers in the program can only stay in Canada as long as their work permits allow. They cannot bring their families with them, and most are barred from applying for citizenship. If they lose their jobs, they face being told to leave the country.

Dias called on the Harper government to allow any temporary foreign workers already in

Canada, or who have arranged to come, to apply to immigrate permanently.

"Part of making this fair is to ensure that the workers already involved with the program are treated fairly and given the opportunity to come to Canada permanently - with their families," Dias said.

As well, Dias said, workers in the program should have full access to the same rights and protections in Canadian law as all workers in this country. 