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The 900 members of Unifor Local 1075 at Bombardier in Thunder Bay began strike action July 14 to defend pensions and benefits.

Bombardier strike underway

Workers at the Bombardier plant in Thunder Bay began strike action July 14 to stand up for good-paying jobs in Ontario.

"We all need to work together to ensure that good jobs survive in this province," said Unifor National President Jerry

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Navistar ruling expands pension rights

A ruling by the Ontario Financial Services Tribunal on a long-standing pension dispute at Navistar not only upholds a previous decision on the workers' pension rights, but expands them.

"This decision shows that companies cannot just arbitrarily take away people's hard-earned pensions," Unifor National President Jerry Dias said.

"We not only won the appeal, but expanded the original superintendent of pension's ruling. This is a solid victory for the workers at Navistar, who have been through a long and hard fight to defend their rights."

In a ruling released late last week, the Ontario Financial Services Tribunal upheld an earlier decision

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Unifor files for review of pipeline

Arguing that the National Energy Board presented a deeply flawed report to federal cabinet, Unifor will join multiple First Nations and environmental organizations using legal grounds to stop the Northern Gateway pipeline from being built.

"The Northern Gateway pipeline brings sky-high

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#unifor

Here's a selection of tweets about @UniforTheUnion

@joiewarnock · Why are >400 skilled technicians on strike at Cascade Aerospace? The answer might surprise you. #bcpoli #bcunion

@GoodJobsEmplois The minimum wage has been the same in real dollars for nearly 40 years! http://www.thestar.com/business/2014/07/16/minimum_wage_in_2013... #goodjobs

In brief

Local 87-M, Globe and Mail

Unionized employees at the Globe and Mail voted 84 per cent in favour of a new collective agreement after narrowly avoiding a strike.

The deal included annual wage increases of 1, 2 and 2 per cent over a three-year deal. The bargaining team also fended off a company proposal that reporters write advertorial copy.

Some 374 Globe journalists, sales reps and administrative staff are represented by Unifor. **U**

Local 4511, car dealers

Local 4511 members working in car dealerships in the Montreal area voted 97 per cent to ratify a new contract that includes a pay increase of 7.5 per cent over three years.

The employer's contribution to group insurance plans increased by 10% and a slight increase has also been made to the pension fund.

There are improved vacations and a framework for more flexible hours for the 700 members. **U**

Photo spotlight

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PHOTO BY: GORD GRAY

\$30,000 raised at Retired National CAW President Ken Lewenza's roast went to Windsor groups helping those in need.



PHOTO BY BILLY O'NEILL

Unifor members join Toyota employees to march in the Cambridge Canada day parade.

Unifor at Mississippi freedom conference

Unifor sent nine delegates to the Mississippi Freedom Summer 50th Anniversary conference, the only Canadians at the event marking 50 years since three civil rights workers were killed by the Ku Klux Klan in that state.

"A repeated message heard at the conference was that workers' rights are at the heart of the civil rights movement today," said Vinay Sharma, Unifor's Director of Human Rights.

Andrew Goodman, James Chaney and Michael

Schwerner were killed June 21, 1964 while registering black voters, marking a turning point in the civil rights movement.

The conference took place June 25-29 at Tougaloo College in Jackson, Miss. Tougaloo, set up to educate former slaves, was a safe haven for 1960s civil rights activists.

Speakers included Hollis Watson, Danny Glover, Harry Belafonte, Dick Gregory and Ayana Gregory. Unifor delegates included Sharma, National

President Jerry Dias, Assistant to the President Deb Tveit and activists from across Canada.

Along with multiple panels and discussions on workers' rights, conference participants took part in a rally organized by student activists from around the U.S. at Nissan's giant plant in nearby Canton, in support of their right to organize with the UAW and demanding fair treatment of workers and a fair union representation vote. **U**



Delegates to the Mississippi Freedom conference attended a rally at a nearby Nissan plant to support their right to join the UAW.

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

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expands workers'
rights" on page 1**

and went further by expanding the number of workers eligible for an unreduced early retirement, and those eligible for a supplementary 0.9 of a year's service to count toward their pensions.

Dias complimented the hard work of the bargaining committee and Unifor staff in making this victory possible.

The decision means an estimated \$28 million for retirees from the plant, which once employed about 1,000 workers and office staff in Unifor Locals 127 and 35.

To see the complete ruling, go to: <http://www.unifor.org/navistar>

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"Bombardier strike
underway" on page1**

Dias, who was at the contract negotiations in Thunder Bay.

"Unifor is prepared to stand its ground to ensure the good jobs we already have are not whittled away."

At issue are company demands for concessions in benefits and pensions. A three-day strike took place at the plant in 2011 in the face of similar demands.

The 900 workers at the plant, members of Unifor Local 1075, build the new generation of subway cars and streetcars for the Toronto Transit Commission, as well as GO Transit trains. They have been in a legal strike or lockout position since June 10, and without a contract since May 31.

Dias said the Bombardier jobs are a good example of

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risks to Canadians but only foreign oil companies will benefit," said Jerry Dias, Unifor's National President. "We will not stand by while Stephen Harper runs roughshod over Canadian jobs, First Nations' rights, and environmental concerns."

The Northern Gateway pipeline will do more harm than good to the economy, Dias said.

The Northern Gateway pipeline (and pending Kinder Morgan and Keystone XL projects) will ship unrefined bitumen to foreign markets. But according to the Alberta Federation of Labour, only 228 permanent jobs will be created from the pipeline.

"Canadian natural resources should create long-term Canadian jobs and meet Canadians' energy needs,"

the kind of work needed across the province, providing decent incomes for families, future job prospects for young people and decent pensions for workers to retire with dignity.

"There are many opportunities to create even more good jobs like these ones," Dias said, noting that many of the parts the Bombardier workers assemble are imported from Mexico.

"We need to find ways to make those parts, and other products, right here in Ontario, so more people can have good jobs," Dias said.



Unifor attended a June press conference with First Nations and environmental groups to express pipeline concerns.

said Dias. "Unifor stands united with the groups demanding that the federal government stop reckless pipeline projects and invest in greener jobs that can support families."

Some 130 First Nations, most BC municipalities, and at least half of British Columbians oppose the Enbridge Northern Gateway proposal.

Letter of the day

In a letter to the editor, Russ Day, Unifor Local 601 unit chair at the Chevron Burnaby Refinery, set the record straight on pipelines and jobs.

Read the letter on Page 4.

Unifor at Social Forum

Unifor is participating in the People's Social Forum August 21-24 in Ottawa, a chance for Unifor members to learn, network with thousands of activists from across Canada, and organize for social and political change.

Unifor's participation in the forum includes:

August 21, 3pm.

The Social Forum March to Parliament Hill: Unifor members gather at 2pm at the Canadian War Museum. Ottawa area locals are encouraged to come out with a strong contingent of members, and to bring local union flags.

For members in Ontario, Unifor/OFL buses will be organized to pick up members who wish to travel

to Ottawa to participate in the march. To arrange bus transportation to the march, please contact national representative Mohamad Alsadi at 613-862-1994 or mohamad.alsadi@unifor.org. **August 22, 4:30pm.**

Open Forum: Good Jobs for All: The Ottawa kickoff for the Unifor Good Jobs Summit will look at challenges facing young workers and equity seeking groups, and how to transform low income precarious work into good jobs.

August 22, 6-9pm.

Unifor reception: to meet Unifor officers, directors and activists. Location TBD.

For details: www.peoplesocialforum.org

Pipeline exporting crude isn't good for Canada, job creation



Russ Day, Unifor Local 601 unit chair at the Chevron Burnaby Refinery, recently had the Letter of the Day in the Vancouver Province newspaper. The following letter appeared June 29:

A recent editorial from a handful of construction

unions ("Northern Gateway pipeline needed to enrich us all") was long on rhetoric about the Northern Gateway pipeline and short on facts.

According to the Alberta Federation of Labour, only 228 permanent jobs will be created from a pipeline opposed by 130 First Nations, most BC municipalities, and half of British Columbians.

Beyond a paltry 36 months of short-term pipeline construction jobs, the Northern Gateway pipeline (and pending Kinder Morgan and Keystone XL projects) will ship unrefined bitumen to foreign markets, robbing Canadians of

thousands of stable, long-term upgrading, refining and petro-chemical jobs.

An Exxon Valdez-type tanker spill would cost the fishing and tourism industry on the North Coast billions, wiping out the already meager benefit to the province of British Columbia.

The Enbridge project, or any project that poses so much risk to the coast, that is opposed overwhelmingly by First Nations, that fails to create a meaningful number of long-term jobs for Canadians is not just divisive—it is foolish.

Instead of enriching foreign oil barons, the federal government should view our

natural resources as a way to maximize benefit to Canadians over the long term. That means addressing First Nations' concerns, taking the time to get our greenhouse gas emissions under control, and creating stable, good-paying jobs for Canadians.

A responsibly managed value-added Canadian oil industry would not only mean additional revenue for social programs and infrastructure, but would also provide Canada with the opportunity to provide incentives to develop a lasting green energy industry for future generations of Canadians. **U**

Standing up for pensions and benefits

Unifor Local 252 is defending the benefits, pension and wages of its 38 members working at Emerald Energy from Waste in Brampton, Ont. and began strike action earlier this month against the company.

At issue is a company demand that members co-pay 20 per cent on all benefits, including dental. Currently, the company pays 100 per cent. The company also wants a cap

on its contributions to the pension plan.

On wages, the company wants to remove double time from the overtime language and to limit wage increases 0.75 per cent each year.

The strike began July 3, almost a week after the strike/lock out deadline of June 27.

Members and supporters rallied outside the head offices of parent company U-Pak on July 14. **U**



Striking members of Unifor Local 252 at Emerald Power from Waste held a rally July 14.

Bargaining begins for Northern Ontario hospitals

Unifor National President Jerry Dias was in Thunder Bay on July 14 to launch bargaining for a new collective agreement covering 2,500 workers at hospitals across Northern Ontario.

"These are the men and women we turn to when we are most in need of care, and it's time they had a

collective agreement that treats them with the respect they deserve and recognizes the vital role they play," Dias said.

The numerous classifications including registered practical nurses, personal support workers, social workers, kitchen and administrative staff are members of Unifor Locals

229 and 1359, and work at nine hospitals across Northern Ontario, stretching from Atikokan to Sault Ste. Marie.

They have not had a pay increase in more than two years, under a collective agreement reached through arbitration in the last round of contract talks.

The current collective

agreement expires October 10, 2014. Unifor and the hospitals exchanged initial proposals on July 9.

"After a two-year wage freeze, part of the arbitrated settlement in the last talks, these workers need enhancements to their compensation to stay in line with their peers," Dias said. **U**