



Labour Day pictures:

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VOLUME 2, NO. 18

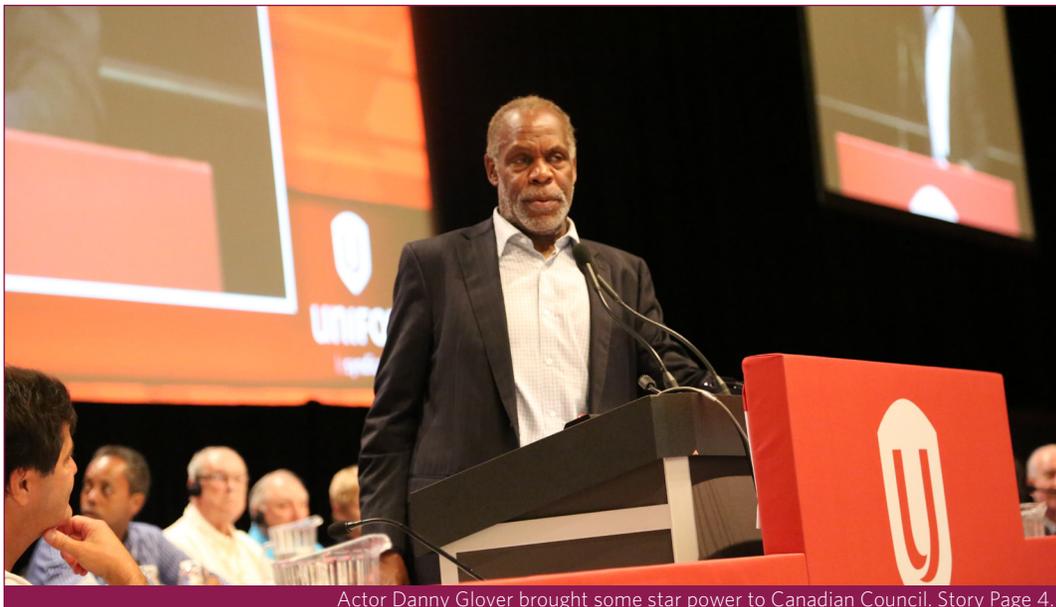
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Canadian Council Edition



Actor Danny Glover brought some star power to Canadian Council. Story Page 4.

Dias urges mobilization

Unifor National President Jerry Dias delivered an energizing speech at the union's founding Canadian Council reaffirming the union's values and goals as an organization.

"This Canadian Council meeting is another important step forward for Unifor," said Dias. "Another big step in building our new

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Bombardier deal ratified

Unifor members in Thunder Bay, on strike at Bombardier for more than eight weeks, are returning to work having maintained good jobs with good pensions for their community.

"This has been a difficult summer for these workers, but they can return to work knowing that they have stood up for future generations," Unifor

National President Jerry Dias said.

Unifor Local 1075 members ratified a new collective agreement September 12 that maintains the plant's defined benefit pension plan for current and future members. New hires will contribute 25 cents an hour to the pension.

Unifor Local 1075 President Dominic Pasqualino said the three-year deal was only possible due to the determination of the members.

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Defeating Harper a priority

Delegates to Unifor's Canadian Council pledged to dedicate the union's second year to defeating the Stephen Harper Conservative government in the 2015 federal election.

"If we are going to defeat Harper, we will need the efforts of every one of our members," Unifor Director

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#uniforCC

Here's a selection of tweets about @UniforTheUnion

@Gramiq "Can you imagine if it was missing and murdered oil exec? Would've had inquiry long ago" - @JerryPDias as #uniforcc supports #mmiw inquiry

@ConsumerSOS Stephen Lewis in #Vancouver says "racism" at root of missing/ murdered #aboriginal women crisis. #cdnpoli #UniforCC

In brief

Awards show value

Two J.D. Power Awards handed to the General Motors CAMI plant in Ingersoll, Ontario, show the importance of quality, productivity, and inclusiveness as essential inputs to the auto industry, Unifor National President Jerry Dias says.

“Nothing in this fine facility would happen, without the work, the dedication, the skill, and the sweat of the members of this local union,” Dias said.

The awards included the Quality Silver Plant Award, ranking CAMI second in all of North and South America for vehicle production quality. The GMC Terrain won the compact SUV segment, with the Chevrolet Equinox second. 

Local 252, Emerald

After nine weeks on strike, members of Unifor Local 252 at Emerald Energy from Waste in Brampton have ratified a new contract that not only maintains pensions and wages, but secures the facility’s future.

The deal gives the workers a lump-sum payment in each year of the four-year deal, and a cost of living allowance in the fourth. The company will make a capital investment in the plant. 

Photo spotlight: Labour Day

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PHOTO BY STUART LAIDLAW

A year after its founding, Unifor was once again a big part of the Toronto Labour Day Parade.



PHOTO BY IAN BOYKO

Unifor handed out thousands of hot dogs at Vancouver’s celebrations.



Labour Day attracted everyone from children to retirees in Halifax, Port Elgin and Windsor.

Unifor raises school bus concerns

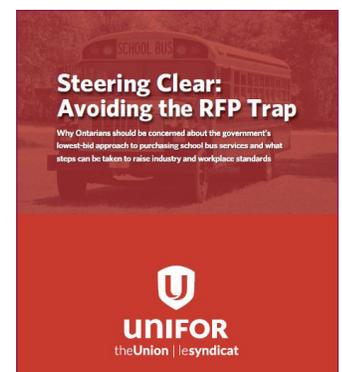
Unifor has written to the Premier of Ontario and the Minister of Education, alerting them to serious problems with how school bus contracts are awarded, and has released a new report on the issue.

“Parents need to trust that when they put their children on a bus in the morning that everything is being done to ensure the best transportation possible,” said Unifor National President Jerry Dias, whose letter was sent to Premier Kathleen Wynne and Education Minister Liz

Sandals. “Unfortunately, our research has found that the way school bus contracts are handed out undermines that confidence.”

Steering Clear: Avoiding the RFP Trap found that the current Request for Proposal process undermines local democracy and leads to abandoned bus routes, closed bus yards and pressure on wages and working conditions.

Unifor is calling on the Ontario government to conduct a review of the RFP process, including the impact on wages and



working conditions.

Unifor is also calling on the Auditor General to look into a \$10-million Wage Enhancement payout to school boards in 2008 to boost driver wages. 

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

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priority" on page 1**

of Member Mobilization Roland Kiehne told the Council.

"The Rights at Work campaign will not be over until we defeat Harper," Kiehne said.

The Rights at Work campaign to educate members on threats to worker rights across Canada was launched last spring and was a key part of Unifor's efforts to defeat Tim Hudak's Conservatives in the June election in Ontario.

Kiehne said materials from the campaign will continue to be distributed to members as the union prepares for the federal election. He said efforts will be focused on several key ridings.

Delegates adopted a policy paper, Politics for Workers: Unifor's Political Project, laying out Unifor's political strategy with other progressive groups in the next federal election, and beyond.

"The short-term goal is defeating Stephen Harper," said Jenny Ahn, Assistant to the President. "The long-term goal is changing the political conversation to be talking about progressive ideas."

Unifor Atlantic Regional Director Lana Payne unveiled a Local Union Task Force to be a central part of union's strategy for mobilizing members, both in the federal election and beyond.

"The ability of Unifor to fulfill its ambitions relies on the strength of our local unions," Payne said.



Carlos Moreira says mobilizing members means having conversations.

There will be a Presidents' Conference in early 2015 to get the task force underway.

Unifor National President Jerry Dias said he has heard from Conservative MPs who are worried that Unifor will work to defeat them, just as Hudak was defeated.

"We are going to change the politics of this country because working class people have had enough," Dias said.

Motivating members to

be politically active requires talking to them about the issues that matter most to them, delegate Carlos Moreira said.

"We learned as a local a long time ago that you have to listen to the members," said Moreira, a bus driver in Vancouver and second vice-president of Local 111.

"You listen to them, they listen to you - and through the conversation, you mobilize the membership," U

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mobilization" on page 1**

union, and in our fight to build a better Canada."

Dias urged delegates to reflect on our successes in the past year, and how far Unifor has come in just one year. Unifor has grown stronger and left its mark on the movement and on Canadian politics.

"When we started to build this new union, we knew we were in for a challenge," Dias said.

"We knew that politicians like Christy Clark, Brad Wall, Tim Hudak and Stephen Harper had their sights on the labour movement and that we needed to be a force for change in this country," said Dias.

"We needed to make it

clear: no piece of legislation is going to deny our right to fair collective bargaining."

The speech followed a video featuring members telling the stories of some of Unifor's biggest successes in its first year: Stevedores in Cape Breton; forestry workers in New Brunswick; workers at Resolute and Silicium in Quebec; truckers from the Port of Vancouver; and freelancers, journalists and health care workers in Ontario.

"It's amazing to see just how many successes we have had in just one year," said Carly Sonier, Local 1101.

"I got goosebumps just watching! Coming from a small local in Ontario, it's hard to get a sense of everything that the union is doing. I really felt that both the video and Jerry's speech



Jerry Dias

really showed that we are a determined union and that we are standing our ground," added Sonier.

"Hearing about the brothers and sisters at Bombardier and Cascade who went out on strike to defend pensions and benefits for young workers made me so proud to be a part of this union," she said.

To see the video, go to unifor.org. U

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ratified" on page 1**

"This strike was about the future of Thunder Bay, and standing up for good jobs in our community."

The company had demanded that the defined benefit pension plan be denied to new hires and that retiree benefits be denied to those hired after Dec. 31, 2010. Both were defeated.

Wages at the plant will remain stable for the first year of the contract, with raises of 10 cents an hour in each of the two following years, plus cost of living adjustments.

Pasqualino got a standing ovation at Canadian Council when he thanked other locals and activists for their support. U

Progress made in Quebec

Unifor has made great progress in Quebec since the union's founding just a year ago, Quebec Director Michel Ouimet told Canadian Council.

Ouimet cited the reorganization of most of the union's office spaces in Quebec (including those in Montreal), and implementation of the Quebec Council, which is now up and running.

Unifor is the largest union in the private sector

in the Quebec Federation of Labour, where Ouimet is Executive Vice-President.

Unifor has worked hard to defend members in a number of battles, including ending the lock-out at Silicium, negotiating a pattern contract for the pulp and paper industry with Resolute and lobbying all levels of government.

Ouimet also urged locals across Canada to show strong support for

Bathium workers, in a long dispute with an anti-union employer.

Ouimet, however, pointed out that there is still much work to do, defeating the Harper government in the 2015 federal election.

"Our next major political crusade both in Quebec and in the rest of Canada will be to get rid of the Harper government during next year's federal election campaign," he said.

"And thanks to our strategic plan, I am

confident that together we will succeed."

On politics in Quebec, Ouimet explained that there are two major rifts in Quebec: the national issue, which is unique to Quebec, and the split between left and right.

After the NDP swept Quebec in the 2011 election, some predicted the death of the sovereignty movement, but support for independence has continued to be strong in polls year after year. 

Pushing for justice for Aboriginal women

Between one and seven Aboriginal women go missing or are killed each month, every month, said Michele Taina Audette, president of the Native Women's Association of Canada, in her address to Unifor's Canadian Council.

The organization oversaw the collection of data on missing and murdered Aboriginal women between 2005 and 2010, until funding for the project was cancelled by the Harper Conservative government. A study released in May by the RCMP puts the number at 1,200 over the last 30 years. Audette suggested it could be much higher.

"If the government can hold an inquiry into sockeye salmon in the Fraser River, why don't our sisters, friends, families and colleagues deserve the same treatment?"

The NWAC has challenged the premiers and territorial leaders to develop strategies to deal with violence towards Aboriginal

women, including extreme poverty, lack of educational opportunities and decent housing.

Audette urged Unifor delegates and leaders to not just stand by and witness the ongoing violence. "Help us change our present and help us change our future. Don't stay as a witness, be active across Canada."

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, president of the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs, said more can be done to build solidarity between Aboriginal peoples and the labour movement.

"We must get beyond the platitudes that we sometimes exchange between Aboriginal groups and unions," he said.

Unifor delegates voted to support the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women, including the petition and other associated actions.

"If you are Metis, Inuit or First Nations, you've been touched by this issue," said David Ladouceur, Local 1



Delegates delivered emotional testaments to missing and murdered Aboriginal women.

in Halifax. "We have some beautiful, strong women standing up and leading the fight."

Joy Thorkelson, of UFAWU in Prince Rupert, said four family members of Unifor members have

died or disappeared. "Our brothers and sisters have lost children - our members who work in our fish plants and on the fishing boats."

To sign the petition: nwac.ca/nwac-petition-national-inquiry-needed. 

Glover ignites Council

After a rousing speech in which he called unions the greatest weapon against poverty and inequality, actor Danny Glover vowed further support for the North American labour movement.

He had special words for workers at Toyota, saying "I am here for you, I am here with you, and we are going to win." He took those words a step further when he joined a lunch-hour conference call with

workers at Toyota working to join Unifor.

"I am here with you in your struggle, because it is not just your struggle, it is all of our struggle," said Glover, who has worked with other union drives.

Jerry Dias named Glover an honorary member of Unifor. Glover replied that they would stand together "from Mississippi to Vancouver" to fight for civil and human rights. 

Unifor Industry Councils

Under Article 11 of the Unifor Constitution, Industry Councils are formed when Locals in a defined economic sector come forward to form a council. The following councils have received, or are seeking, National Executive Board approval:

Independent Parts and Suppliers Industry Council

- represents approximately 18,000 workers making many different parts for the Detroit 3 as well as most overseas automotive makers. These parts go on the vehicles, most parts are made within stamping facilities, plastics, and mouldings. Besides general labourers there are also many different highly skilled trades members.

President: Gerry Farnham, Local 195,
Vice-President: Tim Mitchell, Local 1524,
Secretary-Treasurer: Robin Dudley, Local 1917,
Recording Secretary: Paula Carson, Local 1941.

Media Industry Council

- represents about 14,000 workers in the Broadcasting & Film, Newspapers & Digital News Publishing and Graphical & Printing sectors. Unifor members work as journalists, printers, advertising workers, newspaper carriers, camera operators, technicians, researchers, maintenance workers, on-air talent, stage and film crewmembers, production assistants, website developers, editors and publishers.

President: Randy Kitt, Local 79M,
Secretary/Treasurer: Rob Munro, Local 2000,
Member at Large
Print: Paul Morse, Local

87M, **Member at Large**

Quebec: Stephane Daigneault, Local 145,
Member at Large
Graphical: Alex Charles, Local 780G,
Member at Large
Broadcast : Kristi Tapp, Local M1,
Member at Large
Freelance : Jonathan Ahee, Local 700.

ETOP Industry Council

- represents more than 7,000 members out of 15 different locals representing education, technical, office and professional workers including engineers, designers, technicians, computer programmers, laboratory workers, special constables, call centre representatives, library workers, financial services, university workers and administrative support staff.

President: Matthew Root, Local 5555,
Vice President: Jodi Nesbitt, Local 240,
Secretary-Treasurer: Ian Craigmyle, Local 240,
Recording Secretary: Rosemary Viola, Local 5555,
Sergeant-at-arms: Rita Reid, Local 2002,
Trustees: Gary Taylor, Local 1498,
Trustees: Mary Ellen McIlmoyle, Local 673.

Road transportation and Speciality Vehicle Industry Council

- represents about 22,000 workers in a variety of sub-sectors, including long

and short-haul trucking, shipping, taxi services, couriers, public transit, school bus transit, secure logistics, armoured car, waste and recycling as well as warehousing and storage, among others. Our specialty vehicle sector manufactures buses, trucks rail car and other types of rail equipment, mining trucks, and trailers.

President: Debbie Montgomery, Local 4268,
1st Vice President: Vacant
2nd Vice President: Barry Kennedy, Local 4000,
Secretary-Treasurer: Jim Connelly, Local 4050,
Recording Secretary: Vacant,
Member at Large: Gordon McGrath, Local 114,
Member at Large: Howard Thomson, Local 4209,
Member at Large: Andre Desjardins, Local 4266.

Retail wholesale Industry Council

- represents approximately 15,000 workers in the service and food sector of the Union including but not limited to, grocery, drugstores, fast food and clothing outlets, dairies, bakeries, food processing, beverage and other light food manufacturing industries.

President: Charles Redden, Local 462,
Vice President: Gerry Lepage, Local 755,
Secretary-Treasurer: Carolyn Wrice, Local 597,
Recording Secretary: Christine Connor, Local 414,
Member at Large: Mark

Armstrong, Local 468,
Member at Large: Dwayne Gunness, Local 40,
Member at Large: Richard Ratchford, Local 596.

Hospitality and Gaming Industry Council

- represents more than 15,000 members working in hotels (front of house, room attendants, bartenders, servers, cooks and support staff), the gaming industry (including casinos, racetracks, and government gaming and lottery operations, and restaurants and cafes, theatre companies and recreation facilities.

President: Jean Van Vliet, Local 3000,
Secretary-Treasurer: Charie Virga, Local 444,
Recording Secretary: Deb Lefebvre, Local 4275,
Member at Large: Dana Dunphy, Local 444,
Member at Large: Brian Lackey, Local 4534,
Member at Large: Dave Reston, Local 504,

Health Care Industry Council

- represents more than 30,000 workers in the health care sector across Canada, working in hospitals, long-term care, retirement homes and community service agencies.

President: Shawn Rouse, Local 1106,
1st Vice President: Jim Kennedy, Local 27,
2nd Vice President: Susan Gill, Local 4600,
Secretary-Treasurer: Lisa

Unifor Industry Councils

Tucker, Local 302,
Recording Secretary:
Kellee Janzen, Local 2163,
Trustee: Steve Olsen, Local
1359,
Trustee: Shelly Smith,
Local 2458,
Trustee: Jennifer Benoit,
Local 2107,
Member at Large: Veron
Martell, Local 4603,
Member at Large: Jake
Gibson, Local 8300,

Telecommunications Industry Council

- represents over
25,000 workers in the
private sector of major
telecommunications
companies. Our
membership consists of
clericals, support staff,
sales representatives, in
house technicians and
external work force.

President: Marc Rousseau,
Local 6001,
Vice-President: Dave
Kuntz, Local 1-S,
Secretary Treasurer:
Steve Wanless, Local 27-C,
Recording Secretary:
Sandy Brideau, Local 506,
Member at Large:
Vérinique Figliuzzi, Local
6000,
Member at large: Dana
Anne-james, Local 6006,
Member at large: Sam
Synder, Local 1996-O,

Aviation Industry

Council - represents nearly
14,000 members, including
pilots, air traffic controllers,
air traffic services, aircraft
mechanics, airport
authority workers, air
paramedics, ground
handling and customer
service workers.
President: Cheryl Robinson
Local 2002,

Vice- President: Doug
Best Local 5454,
Secretary Treasurer: Rob
Stephenson Local 7378

Forestry Industry Council

- represents more than
21,000 members working
in sawmills, OSB plants,
panel board plants, pulp
and paper mills, packaging,
logging and silviculture.

President: Jean Pierre
Lafond, Local 227,
Vice Chair: Fraser
McQuarrie, Local 1132,
Secretary-Treasurer:
Annette Ducharme, Local
105,
Member at Large: Yves
Guerette, Local 299,
Member at Large: Ivan
Vasko, Local 1133,
Member at Large: Rick
Edmonds, Local 5025,
Member at Large: Monty
Fudge, Local 64,
Members at Large:
Richard Martin, Local 2,

Rail Industry Council

-represents more than
9,000 workers, mostly
at CN Rail, the VIA Rail
passenger service and
Canadian Pacific. Hundreds
of members also work at
Ontario Northland Railway.

Chairperson: Ken Hiatt,
Local 100,
1st-Vice Chairperson:
Brian Kelly, Local 103, **2nd-
Vice Chairperson:** Tom
Murphy, Local 101-R,
Secretary Treasurer:
Barry Kennedy, National
Council 4000,

Fishery Industry Council

- represents about 4,500
fishery workers on East
and the West coasts, on
Lake Erie members working
in fish plants and fishery

operations in Quebec and
Ontario.

President: Earle McCurdy,
FFAW/Unifor,
Secretary-Treasurer :
Mildred Skinner of FFAW/
Unifor,
Member at Large: Eric
Leukert of Local 2182

Auto Industry Council -
represents 21,000 workers
from General Motors
Chrysler and Ford in auto
assembly and engine
assembly and machining
and parts depots, casting
facilities research and
development, office and
clerical workers, security
and transportation.

Chairperson Chris Taylor
Local 200,
Vice-Chair Mike Van
Boekel Local 88,
Secretary Treasurer
Leon Rideout Local 1285,
Trustee: Dave Thomas
Local 707,
Trustee: Wendell Johnson
Local 636,
Trustee: Dino Chiodo
Local 444.

Aerospace Industry

Council - represents
approximately 11,000
workers who develop
and manufacture
aircraft components for
Bombardier, Boeing and
other prominent OEMS
in the sector. In addition
to providing in service
support for aircraft in the
field, Unifor members build
satellites and robotics for
space exploration and
have assisted in developing
robotics for neuro surgery.

President: Merv Gray,
Local 112,

Vice-President: Richard
Gascon, Local 62,
2nd Vice-President:
Nathan Shier, Local 114,
**Affirmative Action Vice-
President:** Mary Ellen
McIlmoyle, Local 673,
Secretary-Treasurer: Gus
Goncalves, Local 673.

Energy Industry Council

- represents 14,000
members in nearly
every province, from
offshore platforms off
Newfoundland's outer
banks to Suncor in Alberta's
oil sands; from energy
crown corporations in
Saskatchewan to private
refineries across Canada.

President: Jim Galvin,
Local 8833,
Secretary Treasurer: Russ
Day, Local 601,
Member at Large: Tom
Kennedy, Local 2121,
Member at large: Benoit
Potvin, Local 2005,
Member at Large: Mark
Mathewson, Local 848,
Member at Large: Sandy
Boyd, Local 681,
Member at Large: Mike
Kapalka, Local 21A,

The Mining, Metals and Minerals Industry

Council - represents
approximately 12,000
workers in mining, smelting
or milling (whether
underground or on surface,
hard rock, soft rock or
open pits and preparation
of the metals either
through milling or smelting
methods).

President: M. Pierre
Deschenes, Local 666,
Vice- President: Rick
Belmont, Local 2301.