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uniforum



Aerospace investment welcome

Unifor is welcoming an investment by Pratt & Whitney of close to \$1 billion in research and development over the next four and a half years. This investment is made possible in part by funding from the federal government in the form of a repayable contribution of

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Unifor sent a delegation of taxi local presidents and national staff to the Ontario legislature recently to discuss bandit taxis. One meeting was with NDP MPP's, including Local 199 past president Wayne Gates.

Bandit cabs gaining attention

A private member's bill introduced in Ontario to address app-based bandit cabs in the province deserves to be supported by all parties, Unifor says.

"Strong legislation is needed to protect the public against bandit taxis in Ontario," said Amrik Singh, president of Unifor Local

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1688, which represents taxi drivers in Ottawa.

The Protecting Passenger Safety Act introduced by Ottawa South Liberal MPP John Fraser would fine drivers between \$500 and \$30,000 per offence.

Drivers could also receive three demerit points, see their driver's licenses suspended for 30 days and their cars impounded for 30 days.

Singh was part of a delegation to Queen's Park recently that met with Minister of Government and

School bus concerns taken to ministry

School bus drivers joined Ontario Regional Director Katha Fortier recently to take their concerns with how school bus contracts are awarded directly to the Ontario Ministry of Education.

"We had a very

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#unifor

Here's a selection of tweets about @UniforTheUnion



A Better Man Film

Our deepest thanks to @UniforTheUnion for contributing \$10K to support the movement to end #ViolenceAgainstWomen. #unifor #endVAW

@Unifor88Kim

How will I help #StopHarper in the next election? #IWillVote2015. Make certain you do too! @UniforTheUnion @UniforMobilize #canlab #cdnpoli

In brief

Team Industrial

Unifor members at Team Industrial working at Chrysler facilities across Canada have ratified a new three year contract.

The 270 members at six facilities in Brampton, Mississauga, Windsor, Etobicoke, Montreal and Red Deer approved the deal by an average margin of 95.83 per cent.

The new contract maintains all provisions of the collective agreement and includes a signing bonus and lump sum payments each year. 

Workers fight two-tiering

Twelve Unifor members at the Cowichan News Leader Pictorial have been on strike since December 1 to defeat a scheme by the employer to give inferior wages and benefits to new hires.

“New workers with the same training and the same skills deserve the same pay, pure and simple,” said Unifor Local 2000 plant chair Lara Stuart. “We would rather strike than let the next generation down.”

Talks broke down when the employer refused to back down from a scheme to pay new employees less.

Follow the strike at:

facebook.com/#!/WEaretheLeaderPictorial 

Photo spotlight

SUBMIT YOUR PHOTOS TO COMMUNICATIONS@UNIFOR.ORG



PHOTO BY KASSANDRA CORDERO

The 12 members of Local 2000 at the News Leader Pictorial in Duncan, BC, are on strike against two-tier wages.



PHOTO BY CANDY HESCH

Local 88 members at Cami raised more than \$1,000 for the London Abused Women's Centre selling purple T-shirts worn every Monday in November. Back row L-R: Dan Roepman, Kim DeGraaf, Rebecca Cromwell, Alexandra McCoy, Jay Woods. Front row: Lynda Drapeau, Paul Nincevic.

Breast cancer linked to workplace

Unifor is part of a groundbreaking new project examining the risk to women from breast cancer caused by workplace exposure to chemicals.

“New research linking workplace chemicals to breast cancer puts the dangers for women at work in a whole new light,” said Sari Sairanen, Director of Health and Safety for Unifor.

The campaign “Put Breast Cancer Out of Work,” kicks off at a conference in Toronto in January 2014. The event will bring together workers, researchers, and activists to develop a plan of action.

Breast cancer has been traditionally linked to family and reproductive history, but new research linking it to workplace hazards

exposes just how dangerous work can be for women.

The research was conducted in southwestern Ontario, studying women in several sectors including auto manufacturing, canning, and farming. It concluded that exposure to endocrine-disrupting chemicals and carcinogens at work led to increased risk of breast cancer. 

Health unions before arbitrator

Arbitration hearings into a bill to reduce the number of healthcare union in Nova Scotia resumed recently with Unifor's lawyer, Barry Wadsworth, arguing that any decision the arbitrator makes must comply with the workers' rights under Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

James Dorsey, the appointed arbitrator, will have until January 19, 2015 to decide the future of collective bargaining for health care workers in the province.

Wadsworth emphasized the impact the government's plan would have on health care workers and quality of care.

He specifically noted that while Bill 1 states it was designed to achieve “stable and harmonious labour relations”, it would actually cause massive upheaval and disharmony between workers, the unions that would be appointed to represent them and even the health care managers they have been working with for decades to solve

labour problems.

“Workers must trust their bargaining agent, and this trust takes time – sometimes years – to build,” said Wadsworth. “Our proposal for bargaining associations will meet all of the government's objectives and provide the labour peace the government says it wants. It is unreasonable to think that a shuffling of members between unions will end harmoniously.” 

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

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Consumer Services Minister David Oraziotti and a group of New Democrat MPPs on the issue.

He urged all political parties in the Ontario legislature to support the bill, and pledged to work to help ensure its passage.

Taxi licencing rules, regulations and bylaws evolved over time to address specific issues of safety and fairness as they arose, Singh said.

Allowing app-based cab companies to skirt such laws would be step backwards, he said.

In British Columbia, the province required that Uber seek a limousine license in order to operate in the province. Uber has refused to comply. 

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productive meeting," Fortier said after the meeting. "They definitely heard our concerns."

Also attending the meeting for Unifor were Local 4268 President Debbie Montgomery, Local 4266 President Andre Desjardins, and researcher Angelo DiCaro.

They presented Unifor's report on the school buses, *Steering Clear: Avoiding the RFP Trap*, to Education Minister Liz Sandals's top staff and bus policy advisors.

Howie Bender, Sandals's chief of staff, said the ministry will explore ways for Unifor to participate in an upcoming provincial review of the RFP process. "One of the most



important things to come from this meeting is that we have established a direct line of communication

between drivers and the ministry," Montgomery said. "That's very important, and a big step." 

Next Newsletter

This is the last edition of Uniforum for 2014. The next edition will be published January 15, 2015. Have a happy holiday season, and see you in the New Year.

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\$300 million.

"There's no question that we welcome this type of announcement, this investment will provide much needed stability for workers in the aerospace industry," said Camille Larochelle, unit chair for Pratt & Whitney at Unifor local 510.

The investment shows the need for a policy for the aerospace industry to insure the strength and vitality of the industry which plays an important role in Quebec's economy. Unifor has developed a series of proposals increase the stability of aerospace companies and jobs in the sector.

"A concrete strategy needs to be put in place to support manufacturing in Quebec, including in the aerospace industry," said Sylvain Martin, Assistant to the Quebec Director.

Unifor also notes that the investment at Pratt & Whitney should be tied to employment.

"It's important to know where this money will be directed," said Larochelle. "As new projects and products are developed, we should see that investment turned in to new jobs here in our community."

Martin also said it is important for the Quebec government to ensure that management of its natural resources are aimed at sustaining manufacturing within the province. 

Tembec members return after strike

After a week on strike, the 650 members of Unifor Local 233 in Temiscaming, Quebec, have ratified a new collective agreement that addresses many concerns with discipline and tense labour relations.

"Thanks to the shift in the company's attitude and the fact that representatives of senior management joined the talks at the bargaining table, we were able to break this impasse," said Local 233 President Roger Gauthier.

Labour relations have been tense over the past few years, with disciplinary measures being a major irritant for the members. The new contract introduces several adjustments to the clauses governing discipline. Members also made a catch-up gain of 2.4% in vacation time, compensating for concessions made in the previous contract. The four-year contract, which contains elements of the pattern deal reached earlier this year with Resolute Forest Products, includes annual salary increases of two per cent, a lump-sum payment of \$1,000 and contributions to the Paid Education Leave program. 

Unifor scholarship winners announced

Unifor is proud to introduce the scholarship recipients for the 2014/2015 school year.

Jim Ashton Memorial Scholarship

Moeed Ehtisham Saeed

Major: Chemistry
Son of Saeed Ahmed
Unifor Local 112

Larry Bauer Memorial Scholarship

Jordan Rose Molloy

Major: Criminology
Daughter of Stephen Molloy
Unifor Local 444

Dan Benedict Memorial Scholarship

Filip Szymanski

Major: Engineering
Son of Piotr Szymanski
Unifor Local 2169

Rosemary Brown Memorial Scholarship

Audrey Medrano

Major: Nursing
Daughter of Ajith Aluthwatta
Unifor Local 40

Cesar Chavez Memorial Scholarship

Shyan Van Heer

Major: Life Sciences
Son of Shayne Van Heer
Unifor Local 1894

Tommy Douglas Memorial Scholarship

Riel Castro-Zunti

Major: Engineering
Son of Teresita Castro
Unifor Local 4209

Terry Fox Memorial Scholarship

Gurbakhashish Bassi

Major: Nursing
Daughter of Gurmail Bassi
Unifor Local 111

George Hutchens Scholarship

Rebecca McCallum

Major: Public Affairs & Policy Management
Daughter of Joe McCallum
Unifor Local 99P

Haley Birrell

Major: Environmental Engineering
Daughter of Kyle Donnelly
Unifor Local 40-O

Madison Moore

Major: Arts/Psychology
Daughter of Brian Moore
Unifor Local 483

Bud Jimmerfield Memorial Scholarship

Brianne Scott

Major: Nursing
Daughter of Barry Scott
FFAW/Unifor

Peter Klym Scholarships

Gabi Chaumeil Mercer

Major: History/Law
Daughter of Helen Mercer
Unifor Local 333-06

Ashlee Kristen Zomers

Major: Speech Language Pathology
Daughter of Lee Zommers
Unifor Local 1996-O

L.H. (Henri) Lorrain Scholarships

Reid McNevin

Major: Instrument Mechanic
Son of Bruce McNevin
Unifor Local 1119

Allison Cain

Major: Physical Therapy Assistant

Daughter of Janice Cain
Unifor Local 52A

Nelson Mandela Memorial Scholarship

Brian Espinoza

Major: Political Science
Son of Absalon Espinoza
Unifor Local 4268

Dennis McDermott Memorial Scholarship

Rachel Krause

Major: Public Health/Health Sciences
Daughter Gary Krause
Unifor Local 199

Evelyn McGarr Scholarships

Carly Parks

Major: Public Affairs & Policy Management
Daughter of Mark Anthony
Unifor Local 222

Lori Musselman

Major: Kinesiology
Daughter of Gail Musselman
Unifor Local 1106

Patrick McEvoy Memorial Scholarship

Emily Albert

Major: Social Worker
Daughter of Amy Rubino-Start
Unifor Local 229

Tom Pickford Memorial Scholarship

Abigail Porter

Major: Engineering
Daughter of Dawn Shannon/
Maxwell Porter
Unifor Local 5080

Victor Reuther Memorial Scholarship

Thomas Dobrescu

Major: Wind Turbine Technology
Unifor Local 2002

Promoting Equality Scholarship

Kaarina Swinburnson

Major: Teaching
Daughter of Sean Swinburnson
Unifor Local 114 

