



Flawed labour bill passed
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uniforum



Assistant to the President Bob Orr and Unifor Local 4003 Chief Shop Steward Ranbir Bhatti review documents at CN Rail contract talks last month.

CN talks continue past expiry of contract

CN and Unifor were unable to reach a new tentative collective agreement before the end of the year, after months of negotiations and long hours just before Christmas at the bargaining table in Montreal.

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Unifor to push for broad Ontario pension

Unifor welcomes the opportunity for our local unions and members to participate in public consultations and to express their support for the Ontario Retirement Pension Plan,

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Unifor President Jerry Dias says.

“While the Harper government turns its back on the 11 million working Canadians without a workplace pension plan, public consultations on the ORPP will breathe new life into labour’s campaign for a strong retirement security program in Canada,” said Dias.

“Hopefully, our message will carry into the upcoming federal election campaign.”

On December 17, the Ontario government

Truckers fight cuts

A mass meeting of truck drivers servicing Port Metro Vancouver unanimously resolved to begin protests if negotiations about the BC government’s proposed wage cuts don’t result in a fair solution.

After several meetings just before Christmas aimed at defusing the tense situation, truck drivers are cautiously optimistic that a

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#unifor

Here’s a selection of tweets about @UniforTheUnion

@rankandfileca Michael Harris speaks at #Unifor Ontario Reg. Council about Tory corruption, assault on democracy youtube.com/watch?v=amu-yy... #canlab #cdnpoli

@Lanampayne My column this week: Together, we can change things thetelegram.com/Opinion/Column... #cdnpoli #canlab @UniforTheUnion

In brief

Local 200, Penske

A strike has been averted for Unifor Local 200 members at Penske. By a margin of 94 per cent, the members ratified a new three-year contract.

The new contract includes wage increases, language improvements, vacation increases and inflation protection.

The agreement covers 38 and 11 temporary workers who take care of shipping, receiving and logistics in the local Ford plants.

A strike deadline had been set before a deal was reached. 

Local 446, Canadian Forest

Nearly 150 Unifor Local 446 members at Canadian Forest Products in Grande Prairie, Alta., achieved significant wage and benefit increases in the newest collective agreement, ratified in December.

The collective agreement includes wage increases between nine and 16 per cent over the next three years. The contract also includes a two-fold increase to benefits available under short- and long-term disability programs, should a worker become disabled.

The members include millwrights and electricians at the mill. 

Photo spotlight

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PHOTO BY MATT LEVAY

Unifor Local 1996-O served lunch and dinner to 240 people at St. Francis Table in Toronto, before Christmas. Pictured standing are NDP MPs Peggy Nash, Andrew Cash and Local President Sam Snyders.



MARIE-ANDRÉE L'HEUREUX

Unifor members attended rallies in the wake of the January 7 Charlie Hebdo attack in Paris, including in Montreal. See Unifor's statement at <http://www.unifor.org/en/whats-new/briefs-statements/statements>.

C-525 undemocratic and unfair

Unifor is disappointed that Senate has passed Bill C-525 which it recognized was flawed – and is aware will make it more difficult for workers to join a union in a federally regulated sector and easier for a minority of workers to have a union's bargaining rights revoked.

"The bottom line is that unions improve the lives of workers and protect their

rights. It's that simple," said Jerry Dias, Unifor National President. "Unions are good for workers – and good for society."

Many amendments were proposed, but none passed.

"Workers don't want this bill. Employers don't want this bill. The Harper Conservatives were the only ones who wanted this undemocratic, unfair bill,"

Dias said.

Unifor maintains that once a majority of workers have declared that they want to join a union by signing cards, the government should not stand in the way of them doing so by erecting a second obstacle to certification. Bill C-525 will now be sent for Royal ascent. 

Hibernia members ratify contract

Unifor members working at the Hibernia offshore oil platform, represented by Unifor, have voted to accept a new collective agreement with their employer.

The new agreement includes improvements in wages, benefits and working conditions including for temporary employees. Unifor represents nearly 400 people on the platform.

"This was an extremely tough round of bargaining," said Unifor Atlantic

Regional Director Lana Payne. "There is no doubt that we still have some unresolved issues in the workplace, and I can guarantee that the union will be working hard over the term of the agreement to have them resolved."

Contract details include a lump sum payment of \$6,000, prorated for temporary employees, as well as wage increases of 3.5 per cent this year, 3.75 per cent next July 1 and 3

per cent in each of 2016, 2017 and 2018. There were also improvements to several other areas of the collective agreement.

"These are tough jobs, working in one of the toughest environments in the world," said Dave Moffat, Assistant to the President. Unifor National Representative Brian Murphy said "we have made improvements and we look forward to building upon this agreement." 

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

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“Unifor to push for pension” on page 1

released a consultation paper on the Ontario Retirement Pension Plan (ORPP) ahead of its upcoming public consultations on the key design issues in the ORPP.

Unifor supports expanding the Canada Pension Plan (CPP) as the best approach to strengthening the retirement income system. Unfortunately, the Harper government continues to block any expansion to the CPP.

“We are encouraged that the consultation paper acknowledges the importance of designing an ORPP that mirrors the CPP,” said Jo-Ann Hannah, Pensions and Benefits director. 

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solution can be found at the bargaining table.

Truckers say that the deal negotiated in March 2014 is not being respected.

“A deal is a deal. We want to settle this dispute with a negotiated solution, but we don’t have endless patience,” said Gavin McGarrigle, BC Area Director for Unifor.

Container truckers shut down Port Metro Vancouver for nearly four weeks in March 2014 as a result of undercutting by trucking companies and long wait times at the Port.

Truckers went back to work after a Joint Action Plan was signed with the union, the Port, the BC government, and the federal



Unifor signed a deal last March to resolve the dispute.

government. But proposals for pay cuts tabled on December 15 by the BC government threaten to

undo the agreement that has kept the Port open since April. 

Did you know?

Road transportation is one of Unifor’s largest sectors with more than 18,000 members, and includes truck drivers, bus drivers, shipping, waste and recycling, logistics as well as taxi drivers and dispatchers and couriers, among others.

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“CN talks to continue” on page 1

Unifor opened negotiations with CN on September 19, in advance of the expiry of the current agreement on December 31, 2014.

There was some progress made before Christmas, but there have been several stumbling blocks on non-economic issues that prevented the talks from moving forward.

“There is frustration on the part of all of the bargaining committees that CN has refused to address the issues necessary that would help move discussions along,” said Unifor President Jerry Dias, who has been participating in the negotiations.

The two sides will schedule more meetings to continue the negotiations.

Unifor has five collective agreements with CN Rail, which cover mechanics, clerical workers, excavator operators, and truck drivers.

Unifor Local 100 represents skilled trades in mechanical shops and Unifor Council 4000 represents intermodal, clerical, mechanics and owner operators.

Unifor represents 12,500 rail workers across Canada.

Detailed updates of the negotiations can be found at unifor4000.com/unifor-railline.html, where the regular editions of the RailLine newsletter are posted. Back issues are also available. On Twitter, follow @Unifor_RailLine. 

Featured activist

NAME: ALEXANDRA MCCOY

AGE: 28

HOMETOWN: JERICO, ONTARIO

LOCAL: 88

In 2010, Alexandra McCoy saw a chance to create awareness about violence against women and raise funds for the London Abused Women Centre. She and her partner dyed their t-shirts purple (to match the Centre’s ‘Shine the Light’ campaign), with “End Abuse Against Women” on the back. The shirts were such a hit, they dyed 200 more. She now sells the shirts at work with the help of the women’s committee. This year, she



got permission from CAMI to wear the shirts to work, raising more than \$1,000. 

DO YOU KNOW AN OUTSTANDING ACTIVIST? CONTACT:
COMMUNICATIONS@UNIFOR.ORG

Appointments

Several appointments were made in the last half of 2014 including:

Directors

Lisa Kelly was appointed Director of the Women's Department, replacing Julie White, working out of the Toronto national office.

Angela Adams was appointed Director of Education, replacing Lisa Kelly, working out of the Toronto national office.

Barb Dolan was appointed Director of Retired Workers Department and Director of the Strike and Defense Department. Dolan will work with the women's, education, human rights and political action departments, out of the Toronto national office.

Corey Vermey was appointed Director of Health Care, working out of the Toronto national office.

John Breslin was appointed Director of Skilled Trades Department, working out of the Toronto national office.

Service

Tyson Siddall, President of Local 44, was appointed national representative, working out of the Kitchener, Ontario office.

Tim Mitchell, President of Local 1524, was appointed national representative, also working out of the Kitchener office.

Andrea MacBride, Secretary-Treasurer Local 2000, BC Region Council Chair and NEB member, was appointed national representative, replacing Angela Adams, working out of the New Westminster office.

Darlene Prouse, Second 2nd President of Local 2458, was appointed temporary service representative working out of the Windsor office.

Jon Hawkins, former unit chair at Kennedy Heights in Local 2000 and currently working on the Rights at Work Campaign, was appointed national representative working out of the Prince George, B.C., office.

Jean Walters, chair at Forest Heights Long Term Care in Local 1106, was national representative working out of the Kitchener, Ontario office.

Phil Fryer, skilled trades chair at Bombardier Local 112, was appointed national representative working out of the Toronto national office.

Gavin Davies, Vice-President of Local 111, was appointed national representative working out of the Vancouver office.

Marcel Rondeau, Local 2002 executive assistant and Quebec Regional Council Chair, was appointed temporary national service representative working out of the Montreal office.

Jean-Yves Fillion, President of Local 510, was appointed temporary service representative working out of the Montreal office.

Carl Dallaire as a temporary service representative working out of the Jonquiere, Quebec office, effective Sunday, October 19, 2014.

Pensions & Benefits

David Leacock was appointed to permanent staff in the Pensions and Benefits department. He had been working on a temporary basis in the department.

Patrick Rettig was appointed to permanent staff in the Pensions and Benefits department. He had been working on a temporary basis in the department.

Communications

Shelley Burgoyne was appointed to permanent staff in the Communications department. She had been working on a temporary basis in the department in Atlantic Canada.

Research

Mike Yam was hired as a national representative working in the Research Department, out of the Toronto national office.

Education

Sam Vrankulj, Unifor Local 5555 education committee chair, was appointed national representative working in the Education Department, working out of the Toronto national office.

Health & Safety

Joel Carr, formerly working on the Health and Safety Industrial Relations Training Fund, will be working in the Health and Safety department at the Toronto national office. 