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Unifor Local 200 member Tracey Ramsey arrives with her family to her victory party on election night, the newly elected MP for Essex after a hard campaign that defeated the Conservative incumbent.

Unifor celebrates Harper defeat

Unifor is celebrating the defeat of the Harper Conservatives and calling on the Liberals and NDP to cooperate to rebuild Canada. "The election results offer Canadians an opportunity to rebuild our country," said Jerry Dias, Unifor National President.

"Canadians have sent a clear message that the Harper Conservative agenda is not one that represents our interests and needs."

"The Liberals have indicated they want to transform the country and Parliament. Now they can. The new government must bring a new spirit of collaboration to Ottawa and will work with the NDP so Canadians can benefit from the best ideas, which are often born of cooperation," said Dias. "To create real change, cooperation will be essential."

OLG workers ratify new collective agreement

Locked out OLG workers, members of Unifor working at Sudbury Downs, Casino Brantford and Woodbine Racetrack, voted overwhelmingly in support of a new collective agreement recently, officially putting an end to a lockout

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Women's Committee chairs attend conference in Vienna

Unifor's regional Women's Committee chairs recently joined 300 women from around the world at the IndustriALL Global Union's first Women World Conference in Vienna, recently.

They debated and discussed issues such as maternity protection, women's representation and violence against women.

Atlantic Women's Committee Chair Koren Beaman, member of Local 1 in Halifax, spoke passionately about taking a stance against violence against women and said she learned a lot from the other women and the struggles they face in their countries.

"Something that totally shocked me was how some of these women have no

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Support for Welland retirees

Unifor is closely monitoring a recent court decision stripping U.S. Steel retirees of their health benefits, on behalf of 300 Unifor retirees from the former Stelpipe and Welland Pipe plants in Welland.

“U.S. Steel has truly let down the retirees and the people of Welland with its heavy-handed tactics leading to this court decision,” Unifor National President Jerry Dias said.

Ontario Superior Court approved a plan for U.S. Steel to stop paying for health and prescription drug benefits for more than 20,000 pensioners – including 300 at Stelpipe and Welland Pipe.

Unifor Local 523 President Rick Alakas said benefit claims must be submitted by October 31 in order to be paid, and encouraged all retirees to apply immediately for provincial Trillium benefits.



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Unifor files court challenge demanding fairness from truck regulations in B.C.

Unifor has filed in federal court to challenge inadequate and uneven environmental measures at Port Metro Vancouver, saying new regulations aren't based on science and aren't evenly applied across all trucks at the port.

“The Port has haphazardly applied rules that have little to do with regulating emissions,” said Gavin McGarrigle, Unifor's BC Area Director.

“We want to work collaboratively with the Port and the BC government to develop industry-compliant regulations that help control emissions and don't cause chaos for truckers trying to earn a living.”

Under the expiring policy,

port truck drivers' vehicles were tested and upgraded to comply with emissions standards through opacity testing.

But the new Port Metro Vancouver policy bans trucks over 10 years old without any exceptions based on mileage, engine age, or emissions compliance.

Unifor says many truck drivers with older but well-maintained vehicles will suffer needlessly.

Other jurisdictions have offered compensation and incentives for drivers. The Port of Seattle offers to match truck purchase price up to \$27,000 (US).

“The Port's ad hoc policy is out of step with the industry



Unifor truckers have been united.

in this jurisdiction and others. It's all stick, no carrot,” said McGarrigle.

“Truck drivers are going to be out thousands and thousands of dollars and there's no clear benefit to air quality.”

>> Continued from “OLG workers ratify” on page 1

that lasted three weeks.

“Our members are certainly relieved,” said Anne-Marie MacInnis, president of Mine Mill Local 598 Unifor which represents workers at Sudbury Downs. “We've said since the beginning we just wanted to get back to the bargaining table and back to work.”

As part of the OLG's modernization plan, OLG workers are no longer eligible for their current pension plan. Workers were locked out September 19.

“Our members rallied day in and day out to send a clear message to the OLG – that we are willing to stand up for the right to negotiate the terms of our pension plan,” said Dave



Rallies by locked out Unifor members at OLG helped turn the tide and ensure workers can negotiate a new pension.

Reston, president of Unifor Local 504 which represents the Brantford workers.

The new agreement includes language that ensures that after the completion of the sale, the new operator will have to

immediately implement a registered pension plan and that the terms of this new plan may be the subject of negotiations within six months of the new owner assuming operation of the site.

>> Continued from “Unifor celebrates Harper defeat” on page 1

Thousands of Unifor members across Canada were engaged in the federal election, participating in workplace canvasses, volunteering on local campaigns and bringing attention to local issues.

A year ago, Unifor members democratically decided to make the defeat of the Harper Conservatives the union’s priority in this election, pointing to the Conservatives’ failure to protect and create good jobs, failure to support investment and growth in our economy and failure to protect our healthcare system and unprecedented attacks on workers’ rights.

“Unifor committed to change the politics of this

country so that we can all thrive,” said Dias.

“Tonight’s results are an important victory along that road. We will be working with the Liberals and the NDP to ensure we get this country back on track, with a strong economy, good jobs, a robust healthcare system and prosperous communities.”

The Liberals promised to be a champion for the middle class, prioritize job creation, improve the Employment Insurance plan and protect the social programs that are the foundation of Canadian society. They also committed to improve the Canadian Pension Plan, protect Canada’s healthcare system and to launch an inquiry into missing and murdered Aboriginal



Unifor Local 468W member Ronnie Nicolasora and Heather Nagai helped Kennedy Stewart, win for the NDP in Burnaby South.

women.

“Unifor will ensure the Liberals are held to account for these commitments – which are crucial first steps to creating the change Canadians have indicated they want,” said Dias.

Unifor was disappointed that many powerful NDP candidates were defeated, but also celebrated the victory of Unifor member Tracey Ramsey, who defeated Conservative Jeff Watson.

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maternity leave benefits if they choose to have a family and then on the other hand how some women in other countries get up to two years of maternity leave which they can share with their spouse,” said Beaman.

“We’ve made progress but we still have a lot of work to do and that work can only be done if we stick together and don’t give up.”

IndustriALL Global Union represents 50 million workers in 140 countries in the mining, energy and manufacturing sectors.



Unifor’s delegation: (left to right) Cathy St. Amand, Gwen Campbell, Koren Beaman, Lisa Kelly, Wilma Ellenburgh and Brenda Mason.

Unifor argues against Northern Gateway approval

The Harper government approved Enbridge’s Northern Gateway pipeline on the basis of deeply flawed analysis presented by the National Energy Board (NEB), according to arguments made in federal court by Unifor.

“The process was rigged from the start, and it ignored important testimony from Canadians,” said Joie Warnock, Unifor’s Western Director.

“If Stephen Harper refuses to protect our coast, we have no choice but to fight him in court,” Warnock said.

Unifor’s appeal to the federal court argues that the standard set for evidence from pipeline opponents

was higher than the those of Northern Gateway.

The appeal also outlines how the NEB erred in accepting “well functioning petroleum markets” as a benefit to the Canadian public interest.

Unifor is also appealing the NEB’s treatment of environmental factors in approving the pipeline.

While the board accepted evidence about alleged economic benefits from Oilsands expansion, it refused to consider future greenhouse gas emissions or the impact of the project on fisheries.

Several First Nations were also in court to appeal the Harper cabinet’s approval of the Enbridge pipeline.



IN THIS ISSUE After a long campaign, the federal election results are finally in, see page 1 for Unifor's take on the results. There are also stories about a strong Unifor delegation to IndustriALL Global Union's first Women World Conference and a resolution to the lockout of Ontario Lottery and Gaming workers over pensions.

Unifor member elected Nisichawayasihk Cree chief

Former journalist and Unifor Local 816M member Sheila North Wilson had been elected Grand Chief of the Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak (MKO) in the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation.

"It is an extreme honour. But I know that it's not about me, it's more about what our people need at this time. I can offer a fresh perspective," said North Wilson.

The MKO is comprised of 30 sovereign First Nations in northern Manitoba.

The MKO members nations are signatory to Treaties 4, 5, 6 and 10.

North Wilson, from the Bunibonibee Cree Nation,

will replace Chief David Harper.

As Grand Chief, North Wilson pledges to restore the organization's transparency, empower families, assist member nations with treaty strategies, and explore new sources of economic independence.

She also emphasized the need to be an active voice in the campaign for missing and murdered Aboriginal women.

"Missing women has always been in the scope of my thinking. I've almost been a victim and I have shared stories with families of the missing," North Wilson said.



Sheila North Wilson is the first woman elected Grand Chief of the Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak.

"I know that we must make this issue a higher priority across the province and across Canada," North Wilson said.

Using her background as a journalist at both CBC and CTV, North Wilson

is currently working on a documentary about missing and murdered Aboriginal women.

North Wilson will serve a three-year term and is the first woman elected to chief of the MKO.