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Unifor holds press conference to announce tentative deal with GM.
From left: Whitey MacDonald National Representative, Bob Orr National Secretary-Treasurer, Tim Mckinnon Vice Chair GM Master Bargaining Committee, Jerry Dias National President, Greg Moffatt Chairperson GM Master Bargaining Committee, Shane Wark Assistant to the President.

Nova Scotia long-term care workers rally

On September 15, workers from long-term care facilities in Cape Breton and Halifax joined other Unifor members and supporters in front of Northwood Manor to protest Premier Stephen McNeil's cuts to long-term care funding across the province.

The Victoria Haven facility in Glace Bay, Cape Breton and Northwood Manor in Halifax have suffered recent layoffs as a direct result of budget cuts brought down by the McNeil government over the past two years.

"These cuts to long-term care are painful for the elderly residents and for the workers in these facilities," said Lana Payne, Unifor Atlantic Regional Director. "During the last provincial election, the McNeil Liberals ran on promises that they would be the party to 'improve health care'.

Moose Jaw community resists cuts

On September 11, Unifor Local 3 mobilized a community rally and BBQ to fight back against surprise cuts to the Wakamow Valley Authority (WVA) that were contained in the 2015 Saskatchewan budget.

"Wakamow is not expendable—it is a vital part of Moose Jaw. These

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Unifor secures investment in tentative deal with GM

Unifor's tentative new contract with General Motors includes investment by the company at all its facilities in Canada. This will mean new product for Oshawa, and the extension of the current commodity programs in St. Catharines.

"The commitment to Oshawa is hundreds of millions of dollars, therefore our fear of a closure in 2019

is now over," said Unifor National President Jerry Dias at a press conference held shortly after midnight Monday. "The facilities clearly have a bright future."

The Oshawa facility will see investment and reconfiguration that will make it the first GM plant in North America to have the capacity to produce both trucks and cars. The

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Landmark win in workers' compensation

Three health care workers who contracted breast cancer while working at a hospital laboratory in British Columbia recently won their claim to workers' compensation at the Supreme Court of Canada.

The women were exposed to known carcinogens including ortho-toluidine and falmalin while working in the lab.

The ruling will empower compensation appeal tribunals to establish causation of diseases from occupational factors.

The two unions representing the women fought the case in the courts for nearly fifteen years after the Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) first rejected their claim.

Unifor represents the staff lawyers at both the Health Sciences Association and the Hospital Employees Union (HEU).



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Unifor retirees: "It's Time!"

Delegates from across the country gathered in Port Elgin from September 4 to 9 for Unifor's National Retired Workers Council.

The Council represents more than 38,000 Unifor retirees from across Canada.

Each year, the Council kicks off with the Labour Day parade down the main street of Port Elgin. Buses of retired workers, leadership and family members from around Ontario joined with the Grey Bruce Labour Council affiliates to bring the total of marchers



Unifor National Retired Workers Council

to over 2000 enthusiastic union members.

Throughout the week delegates heard from guest speakers and debated resolutions submitted by the Retired Workers chapters.

"It is always exciting to meet new delegates who have formed chapters since the last council," said Unifor Retired Workers Director, Barb Dolan.

"It is important to recognize our retirees and thank them for their many years of activism and continued support for the work of our union."

This year's recipient of the Unifor Outstanding Retired Worker of the Year award was Unifor Local 144 member Jack Morrison.

Newly elected Unifor Retired Workers Council Executive:

Dave Tremblay - Chairperson, (representative on the National Executive Board), Les MacDonald - Vice Chairperson, Jean Simpson - Recording Secretary. Sandy Carricato, Maria Pinto, Gary Parent, Roger Lee, Tony Sisti, Brian McDonald, and Michel Thibault were all elected as Members at Large.

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short-sighted cuts must be reversed to ensure the park can be enjoyed by generations to come," said Joie Warnock, Unifor Western Regional Director.

Despite the fact that cuts will lead to lay-offs and the degradation of Moose Jaw's urban park, both Sask Party MLAs in the area—Greg Lawrence and Warren Michelson—voted in favour of eliminating the provincial funding for the Authority.

"Moose Jaw residents have been betrayed by our own MLAs," said Bill Lawson, President of Unifor Local 3 representing WVA workers.

The WVA is an



Unifor members take action to protect the historic Wakamow Valley in Moose Jaw, SK.

organization formed by the government, dedicated to the conservation of the Valley's cultural and natural resources. Wakamow Valley, formed by two large glaciers, has deep roots in the community and is considered an important resource by local First

Nations, for whom it has been a traditional meeting place for generations.

The provincial budget also delivered cuts to other urban parks across Saskatchewan including: Weyburn, Prince Albert, Swift Current, and North Battleford.

>> Continued from "Long-Term Care workers rally..." on page 1

But now that they're in government they are trying to balance the books on the backs of our senior citizens. It's appalling."

Members of both opposition parties attended the rally to show their support for long-term care workers and to speak out against the McNeil government's cuts.

"During the recent by-election, I canvassed Northwood Manor," said newly-elected NDP MLA for Halifax-Needham Lisa Roberts. "So many residents talked about how the cuts are affecting them in their daily lives."

Roberts attended with Nova Scotia NDP leader Gary Burrill who highlighted the hidden costs of these cuts to seniors' care.

"We accessed the figures through a freedom of information request and the real numbers are staggering - over \$6 million in cuts from long-term care across the province," said Burrill. "Mr. McNeil promised us better health care - he did not tell the truth!"

Jamie Baillie, leader of the PC Party of Nova Scotia, also voiced his support. "Anyone who opposes cuts to food, staffing and services for our province's seniors - I stand with them," said Baillie.

Unifor members also



circulated a petition for attendees to sign, and pledged to keep up the pressure on the Premier.

Our union has been, and will continue to be, a powerful voice in support of public health care in the province of Nova Scotia and

across the country.

To learn more about the campaign to defend long-term care in Nova Scotia and to help stop privatization visit: unifor.org/NovaScotiaLTC

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St. Catharines engine and transmission plant will also absorb engine production that will be shifted from Mexico.

"This is the first time that I can remember where there has been a migration of product from Mexico to Canada. Heaven only knows we've seen enough of it go the other way around," said Dias.

There will also be investment made in the parts distribution centre in Woodstock. The deal also includes wage increases, a signing bonus and improvements to the New Hire program. As well, 700 supplemental workforce employees (SWEs) will be converted to full time status.

Dias suggested that the master agreement for all Detroit Three sends a



strong message to workers at Toyota and Honda plants that with a union they can secure new product and create good jobs for temporary workers.

"The temporary employees at Honda and Toyota now know the way to get full-time employment is through collective bargaining," said Dias.

Dias declined to give further details, saying he will tell members at GM ratification meetings on September 25.

Unifor picked GM as its target to set the pattern for bargaining with all the Detroit Three automakers: Fiat-Chrysler, Ford and GM.

Featured campaign: Taking action to fix Canada's voting system

Unifor believes that Canada needs a fair electoral system that results in governments that more accurately reflects the votes of Canadians.

At our Convention this August, delegates took part in a lively debate about the future of our democracy and voted to endorse a 'Made in Canada' Proportional Representation (PR) electoral system.

A Special Committee on Electoral Reform is holding meetings in communities across the country to hear directly from Canadians.

We are encouraging our members to attend these meetings or to participate in the online consultation process.

This is our chance to have our voices heard and to ensure we have a system where every vote counts.

The committee's consultation wraps up on October 7 so be sure to take action now!

To learn more about the consultation process and how you can take part in Unifor's campaign visit unifor.org/electoralreform





IN THIS ISSUE Unifor secures investment with GM, Landmark workers' compensation win, NS long-term care workers rally against cuts, Taking action to fix Canada's voting system... and more!

Rally for Decent Work provides historic opportunity for change

Ontario's labour movement is planning a mass rally for Decent Work to take place at Queen's Park on Saturday, October 1.

"Ontario workers both see and feel the effects of the province's outdated labour laws," said Unifor Ontario Regional Director Naureen Rizvi. "The increase in precarious, part-time, temporary, contract and subcontracted jobs has allowed employers to drive down wages and working conditions in every sector."

Unifor will join the Ontario Federation of Labour and the Fight for \$15 and Fairness Coalition

to call for an increase to the minimum wage, safe working conditions, paid sick days & vacation, an end to the gender/racialized wage gap and easier access to a union.

The rally will highlight the once-in-a-generation opportunity to push for sweeping changes as the government undertakes the Ontario Changing Workplaces Review.

The Review will address concerns over the deteriorating working conditions experienced by many workers. The final report will be used to change the antiquated



Employment Standards Act (ESA) and Ontario Labour Relations Act (OLRA). The participation of each and every member is vital as we demand decent work for all.

On October 1, Unifor members are asked to gather at Toronto's Allan Gardens, 19 Horticulture Avenue at the corner

of Carlton & Jarvis commencing at 11:30 a.m. for a rally before the march to Queens Park at 12:30 p.m.

To find more information, get local bus details or download a poster or sharable graphic visit: unifor.org/decentworkrally.