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uniFORUM



Unifor successfully negotiates contracts with Detroit Three automakers as tentative agreement with Ford is reached.

Unifor lobbies MPs on TPP

Unifor members from across Canada are in Ottawa this week to warn MPs about the dangers of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) deal and to urge them not to ratify it.

“Unifor is making its presence known in Ottawa, and making sure MPs know that Canadians want trade deals that lift up all of us instead of forcing a race to the bottom,” said Unifor National President Jerry Dias.

The week began with news that the House of Commons Standing Committee on International Trade has extended the deadline for public input a third time, to January 27, 2017.

On Halloween morning politicians and parliamentary staff woke up to radio and newspaper ads telling them Unifor was in town. Members then met with about 50 Members of Parliament from both the

Montreal \$15 minimum wage march

An impressive delegation of Unifor members took part in the Montreal march to demand a \$15 minimum wage, held on October 15.

“An increase in the minimum wage is an essential step to help all workers escape poverty. How can it be that a person who works full-time all year

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Unifor secures future for auto in Canada

Unifor reaches a tentative agreement with Ford to secure investment at Ford operations and reinforce the economic pattern established with General Motors (GM).

“Negotiations with Ford were our most challenging to date, but our committees worked together to get it done, and we accomplished the pattern,” said Unifor

National President Jerry Dias. “This tentative contract secured \$713 million for Ford operations, it provides a plan for a long-term footprint and it offers well-deserved increases for our members.”

In reaching this tentative agreement, Unifor successfully bargained contracts with all of the Detroit Three automakers

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Workplace poster aims to encourage organizing

The Organizing department has created two new workplace posters with the aim of reaching Unifor members directly. With these posters, we hope that our own members will think about the people around them: children, relatives and friends who could benefit from the support of a union.

There are two versions of the posters featuring newly-organized young workers from a telecommunications workplace, one is in this Uniforum. The posters are part of the All In! campaign to raise awareness about organizing and encourage members to take an active role in growing the union. The posters should be displayed in workplaces represented by your local.

For more information, visit www.unifor.org/allin



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Inaugural Northern Ontario Council

A traditional Aboriginal drum ceremony officially welcomed 90 Unifor members to the inaugural Northern Ontario Council held in Thunder Bay on October 21-22.

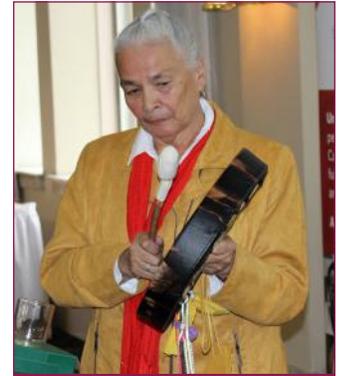
"The challenges for members here are very different given the vast geography and history of the north," said Unifor Ontario Regional Director Naureen Rizvi.

The new council meeting was introduced to deal with concerns specific to the region. Speaking to delegates Rizvi addressed key Northern Ontario issues including: internet access, hydro rates, underrepresentation in government, and support for truth and reconciliation for Indigenous people.

Thunder Bay Mayor Keith Hobbs spoke of his concern over lack of Provincial and Federal funding to develop and support Aboriginal programs, while Volker Kromm, of the Regional Food Distribution Association, outlined the need for food banks across the north.

On the final day of the conference, local Thunder Bay MP and Minister of Status of Women Patty Hajdu spoke about the importance of equity work. "We all want a society where women and girls have the same opportunity to thrive as men and boys," said Hajdu. "Now is the time, we all need to recommit to gender equality."

Unifor Assistant to the National President Katha Fortier also spoke to delegates



Local 7-O member Marilyn Netemegic officially opens the Northern Ontario Council.

about the power of our union and the strength of solidarity. "Thunder Bay has the highest density of union organization in the country," said Fortier. "You have the opportunity here to influence political and social change. I challenge everybody to see how we can build that higher."

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long is forced to resort to food banks and can never make ends meet? That's unacceptable," said Unifor Quebec Director Renaud Gagné, who took part in the march.

More than a thousand people took to the streets with banners and flags to call for an increase in the Quebec minimum wage and improve the lives of workers. The campaign is supported by several community, labour, political and student organizations throughout Quebec and represents the collective voice of hundreds of thousands of people.

Minimum wage in Quebec is one of the lowest in the country at \$10.75 per hour, following an increase



Members march in Montreal to demand a living wage for all workers.

on May 1 of \$0.20 per hour.

In Quebec 733,700 workers earn the minimum wage, while one in every ten food bank users has a job.

Despite the stereotypical

myth about minimum wage workers, the majority in Quebec are not in school, work full-time and are over the age of 25.

>> Continued from “Unifor lobbies MPs on TPP” on page 1

governing and opposition parties to raise specific concerns with the proposed TPP deal:

- The Investor State Disputes Settlement (ISDS) system will allow companies to sue governments if they pass laws that hurt their profits, even if those laws are in the public interest.

- Patent provisions in the TPP will drive up the price of prescription medications.

- Jobs will be lost and local communities hurt. Several studies have found that the TPP

could cut jobs throughout Canada, while offering only minimal economic benefit to the country.

While the focus of the meetings was the TPP, members also told MPs they want to see Canada pursue trade deals in the future that put the needs of working people ahead of those of corporations, said Roland Kiehne, Unifor Director of Member Mobilization and Political Action.

“Unifor believes in trade, but we believe in trade that helps working people,” he said.

“We want to see a day when trade deals are negotiated to help people, not push them down. The first step to reach that goal is to not ratify the TPP.”



Members share research on the impact of the TPP with Bryan May, Liberal MP- Cambridge, Ontario.

He said recent efforts by the Belgian region of Wallonia to push back against a Canada-Europe trade deal have highlighted the concerns many people have with the extraordinary powers given to corporations in trade deals,

as well as the impact those deals have on the lives of all people.

For more information on the TPP and Unifor’s TPP campaign, go to unifor.org/tpp or for French materials please visit unifor.org/ptp.

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that adheres to a pattern settlement. Combined, Unifor negotiated a total of \$1.5 billion to be invested in the auto sector. Negotiations also achieved the key priorities set by the Auto Council last spring - investment and wage improvements for members.

Along with investment and an engine product, other terms of the tentative contract include: 2 per cent general wage increases in year one and four of the contract, a \$6,000 ratification bonus, \$2,000 lump sums payments in years two, three and four, benefit plan improvements and an enhanced wage progression offering thousands of dollars in increased earnings for

in-progression members.

The Committee was also successful in pushing back Ford’s demands to introduce a temporary full-time workforce with a lower wage and to cutback long-term health care.

Unifor members will have the final say on the tentative agreement when a vote is held at local membership meetings on Saturday, November 5 and Sunday, November 6.

“When our union secures good-paying jobs our communities benefit too, this is exactly why investing in Canada matters,” Dias said.

For more information on the bargaining campaign visit unifor.org/AutoTalks16

Moment of truth for electoral reform

National President Jerry Dias told the federal government committee looking into changing the voting system that Canadians have given the government a mandate to bring in electoral reform.

“Our members and most Canadians believe that they voted for change in the last election. We voted for a change in government and in the principle of electoral change, expecting specific reforms that are understandable and explainable,” Dias told the committee on October 25 in Ottawa.

His presentation to the Special Parliamentary Committee on Electoral Reform capped several weeks of consultations and

work by Unifor members who mobilized to attend and speak at hearings.

“This process is quickly coming to a moment of truth,” Dias told the committee, reminding it that three of the four major parties in the last federal election supported electoral reform.

Delegates at the national convention passed a unanimous resolution supporting proportional representation. To see the resolution, a copy of the presentation or for more information on our campaign to change the voting system, visit unifor.org/electoralreform.

The committee is to report to Parliament on December 1.



Precedent setting deal with Waterloo Catholic Board

Members of Unifor Local 302 have overwhelmingly ratified a three-year collective agreement with the Waterloo Catholic District School Board, averting a possible work stoppage.

It was a challenge to reach the agreement as the Board was under pressure and direction from the Ministry of Education to maintain the economic conditions set in other collective agreements in the education sector. The leadership and the Bargaining Committee of Unifor Local 302 held strong, insisting that the economic needle must move forward and

subsequently worked to find a creative solution to make that happen.

While the deal maintains the base increases that were set out in other contracts, it puts more money in the pockets of members by increasing existing allowances and creating new special allowances.

Additionally, the new collective agreement brings an increase in paid education leave along with ground breaking initiatives in employment equity and workplace inclusion, mental health in the workplace and amalgamation.

The contract also contains express provisions

IN THIS ISSUE Unifor warns MPs of Trans-Pacific Partnership dangers. A tentative agreement is reached with Ford. Quebec workers take to the streets of Montreal to demand a \$15 minimum wage. The first Northern Ontario Council takes place in Thunder Bay and more!



Unifor Local 302 Bargaining Committee members achieve successful deal following challenging negotiations.

to deal with the fallout from the Ontario government's infamous anti-worker Bill 115; legislation that has since been ruled unconstitutional by an Ontario court. The court directed the parties to arrive at an agreement to remedy or return to the judge for imposition.

The Bargaining Committee succeeded in including language that stipulates this agreement is entered into without prejudice to any position that the union, or the employer may take with respect to the impact, including that of consequences and remedy.