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Unifor members rally against Islamophobia outside the U.S. Consulate in Toronto.

Trade deals must help workers

Canada's trade deal with Europe is being pushed through Parliament without proper consideration of the impact on working people or the country as a whole, Unifor warned a visiting group of Danish parliamentarians.

"I can tell you that ratification is moving rapidly through Canada – almost at an irresponsible pace," said Naureen Rizvi, Ontario Regional Director, in her speech on February 9 at the Danish Consulate in Toronto.

Rizvi stated that the proposed Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement, or CETA, is all-too typical of the kind of deals negotiated when governments fail to consider the needs of workers.

As Canada has seen with the North American Free Trade Agreement, NAFTA, trade deals that put a higher

Solidarity for Vast Auto strikers

More than 70 Unifor members turned out on February 3 to support workers forced on strike by Vast Auto. The company walked away from the bargaining table rather than raise poverty-level wages.

"This rally shows the tremendous support for these workers across our union, it

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Unifor marches against Islamophobia

In the wake of the senseless murder of six Muslim worshippers at a Quebec City mosque, Unifor members rallied nationwide to decry Islamophobia and to condemn the order to ban people from seven Muslim-majority countries from entering the United States.

On February 3, 4 and 5, rallies took place in more than a dozen cities

across Canada to mark the National Days of Action Against Islamophobia. In Toronto thousands gathered outside the U.S. Consulate and marched to denounce hate and the U.S. travel ban. Members of the Canadian Freelance Union brought homemade signs, as Unifor flags dominated the crowd showing a clear a message of union solidarity.

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SAVE THE DATE

Unifor is proud to offer the following equity conferences at the Unifor Education Centre in Port Elgin, Ontario. Over two days participants will help build our union and strengthen Unifor's social justice work. To register please speak with your local President or Executive Board. More information at unifor.org/events

- Aboriginal and Workers of Colour Conference - May 5 -7
- Pride conference (open to all LGBTQ members and allies) - May 12-14

Canadian Council is coming to Winnipeg!

Registration will be open soon but mark these dates in your calendar.

- Industry Council meetings on Thursday, August 17.
- Canadian Council begins 9a.m. on Friday, August 18 to Sunday, August 20.



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Striking Delastek workers keep spirits up

After more than 22 months on strike, Unifor members at Local 1209 continue their fight against Delastek, in Grand-Mère, a Quebec-based employer.

Delastek, a subcontractor in the aerospace industry, notably for Bombardier, has been able to continue its operations, despite Quebec's anti-scab law.

"This dispute demonstrates the complete power imbalance between a unionized group and the employer when scabs do the jobs of unionized workers," explained Quebec Director Renaud Gagné.

The dispute is rooted in the division of work between production, covered by the collective agreement, and research and development, which is not part of the bargaining unit. In the union's view, it is clear that workers in research and development are



Unifor media conference in Trois-Rivières, QC draws attention to striking Delastek workers.

doing production work and prolonging the strike.

During a visit to the company by Labour Department inspectors, the workers in the plant claimed they were working on parts intended for the CSeries and that these parts came under research and development. However, Unifor learned from workers in the CSeries shops that the aircraft is no longer in development but rather in the production phase. If this is the case, the work currently being

performed is in contravention of the law.

Unifor has appealed to Bombardier to assist in ending the strike but it has refused to interfere in the labour dispute or with the Quebec government, which owns a stake in the CSeries.

Hope remains. Gagné said, "We are awaiting the report of the government inspectors, after which we will take the appropriate action in the courts."

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really means a lot to them," said Paulo Ribeiro, Unifor National Representative.

The 29 workers on strike, seeking to negotiate the second collective agreement, are members of Local 1285.

"This company makes large profits off the backs of workers by exploiting a workforce of marginalized workers and immigrants hired through temporary agencies."

Most workers at the Brampton location make about \$12.70 per hour and pay for their own benefits. None make more than \$14.80, while in Montreal the Vast Auto workers make between \$18 to \$21.80 per hour.



A February 4 solidarity picket in Scarborough for Vast Auto strikers.

The rally took place at the Vast Auto location in Scarborough a week to the day after Vast Auto walked away from the table. In addition to the rally Unifor members leafletted and urged customers

not to shop at Vast Auto until a fair deal is reached.

Supporters can continue to show solidarity by joining the picket line at 10 Driver Road in Brampton.

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priority on the desires of big companies or corporations than the needs of citizens tend to result in a race to the bottom and good jobs shift to low-wage contract work.

"Explaining that trade agreements have improved shareholder value or the competitive position of businesses in world markets, means nothing to the displaced factory worker who can't pay the bills," Rizvi said.

Under NAFTA, for instance, Canada's manufacturing trade deficit with Mexico has grown 700 per cent, to \$25 billion in 2015. Half of that is in cars and car parts.

One thing NAFTA and CETA have in common is

Investor-State Disputes Settlement clauses, or ISDS, which Rizvi warned is a dangerous provision. Under NAFTA's ISDS clause, Canada has been sued more than 35 times by private investors - more than any other developed country.

Rizvi asked pointedly, "Why can General Motors sue Canada to safeguard its investment, when Canadian workers don't have the same existing protections to sue General Motors for exploiting unfair labour laws in Mexico?"

Unifor's position is to support trade, but fair trade. Rizvi underscored this point by telling the Danish officials that trade deals must be negotiated in a manner that is fair and transparent, and with the primary goal of improving the lives of working people.



Naureen Rizvi, Ontario Regional Director and Angelo DiCaro, National Research Rep with a multi-party committee of Danish Parliamentarians.

Neither CETA nor NAFTA are that sort of trade deal.

"Unifor will continue to speak out in opposition to CETA," she said.

On February 16, Prime Minister Trudeau will address the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France, a day after the European legislature is expected hold a ratification vote on CETA. Next the majority of the member states will hold individual

ratification votes, and in some cases referendums, before the deal is finalized. Here in Canada, legislation to enact CETA, Bill C-30, is still before the House of Commons, members are encouraged to contact their member of parliament to share their concerns. To find your local MP visit www.unifor.org/findmyMP.

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The attack during evening prayer at the Centre Culturel Islamique de Québec was shocking but it exposed the daily lived reality faced by many Muslims who encounter hate and Islamophobia.

In a show of solidarity with the Muslim community, Unifor flags were also proudly displayed at rallies in Sydney, London, Ottawa and Vancouver. A candlelight vigil was held in Nanaimo, BC, while in several cities, including St. John's, Newfoundland, members symbolically created a human shield around the local mosque. View photos at [Facebook.com/UniforCanada](https://www.facebook.com/UniforCanada)

Unifor rejects racism in all forms and remains committed to continue to work vigilantly

against Islamophobia and all hate-based violence in the workplace and the community.

To welcome those impacted by Trump's immigration ban Unifor is asking members to lobby the federal government. Tell Trudeau to accept those fleeing violence and deportation. Ask Canada to protect asylum seekers and eliminate the "Safe Third Country" agreement, a law that currently prevents refugees from coming to Canada if America was the first point of entry. Add your name to the petition: <https://you.leadnow.ca> (available in English only).

Wear your pink on Feb 22

Unifor recognizes Pink Shirt Day, celebrated annually on the last Wednesday in February, to support the important commitment to a safe, harassment free environment at work and school.

All members are asked to participate in Pink Shirt Day, which happens on Wednesday February 22 this year. By wearing a pink shirt you can send a visible message against homophobia and all forms of bullying.

Pink Shirt Day began in Berwick, Nova Scotia in 2007 when David Shepherd, Travis Price and a group of students defended their peer who was bullied for wearing a pink shirt. In a commitment of solidarity people have been wearing pink shirts and sharing images

online to add their voice and say no to homophobic bullying and harassment.

Help to organize your workplace to participate in Pink Shirt Day this year, but don't let it end there. Make a promise to act, speak out against bullying and offer kindness every day.

If you have a Pink Shirt Day story or photo, share it! Email communications@unifor.org or post your photo online at [Facebook.com/UniforCanada](https://www.facebook.com/UniforCanada) or tag #Unifor on Twitter.





IN THIS ISSUE Unifor marches against Islamophobia. Danish politicians hear from Ontario Regional Director about impact of CETA. Striking Delastek workers keep spirits up. Why you should wear pink on February 22 and more!

Unifor donates \$10,000 to ice storm relief

On February 9, members of Local 506 Sandy Brideau and Ronald Benoit presented, a cheque on behalf of the national union, to the Red Cross for \$10,000 towards the relief efforts in New Brunswick.

"I am very touched by the support from our great union," said Brideau, President of Local 506. "It feels good to have solidarity from across the country, especially when something like this happens."

More than a week after freezing rain blasted much of the province thousands of New Brunswickers were still without power. The storm affected most residents, with the worst-

hit communities along the Acadian peninsula on the northeastern coast. Some residents resorted to heating their homes with barbeques and generators, but this resulted in two deaths from carbon monoxide poisoning and over 34 hospitalizations. The Armed Forces were also called in to assist with clean up so crews could work to restore power to the nearly 200,000 affected homes and businesses.

Unifor has been swift to respond to emergencies such as these through the capacity of the Social Justice Fund and through special collections and donations from regional



Sylvie Arsenault from the Canadian Red Cross is flanked by Local 506 members Ronald Benoit (left) and Sandy Brideau (right).

councils, locals and the National Executive Board. The ice storm relief donation was made after the National Executive Board approved the amount with a unanimous decision.

"Locals in New Brunswick immediately took action

to show support for their neighbours," said Lana Payne, Atlantic Regional Director. "Our members are very involved in their communities and it's especially evident during times like these."