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# uniFORUM



Athletes take the field at the North American Indigenous Games Opening Ceremony

## Indigenous Games Underway

The Toronto 2017 North American Indigenous Games officially began with an Opening Ceremony where athletes were told “you are the answer to a prayer from seven generations ago.” Thousands packed the outdoor ceremony which featured a performance by Taboo from the world famous Black Eyed Peas, traditional singers and hoop dancers, and a dazzling fireworks display. However, the highlight of the ceremony was the parade of Indigenous athletes, representing all 13 provinces and territories of Canada and 13 regions from the United States.

“These athletes are an inspiration,” said National President Jerry Dias. “Their dedication and passion is the spark to ignite a fire within all of us to reach our dreams and achieve greatness.”

Unifor is a proud Presenting Partner of the  
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## New agenda for trade debated at town hall

Local businesses, including a local grocery store and Tim Horton’s, have been calling Unifor Local 88 in Ingersoll, Ontario wondering when looming layoffs at GM CAMI will begin.

“Employers want to know when they need to start

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## Members speak out on new labour laws

Unifor members have organized across the province to present at the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs, as it hears from Ontarians about the Fair Work, Better Jobs Act - Bill 148. More than 20 Unifor members have signed up to present, the most of any union in the province.

“Unifor members

have brought their own powerful narratives to committee hearings across the province to push for necessary changes to Bill 148,” said Ontario Regional Director Naureen Rizvi.

Rizvi said there are four key priorities for the union.

“The proposed legislation still falls short on card check certification for all workers, broader based bargaining

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## Skilled trades give back

104 delegates from a variety of trades gathered to discuss common issues at the National Skilled Trades Council meeting in Calgary last month.

Traditionally, the host Sub-council chooses a local charity to receive a donation from the Bob Chernecki Charity of Choice, funded by the National Skilled Trades Council and sub-councils from across Canada.

The Calgary Sub-Council, represented by President Doug Terris, selected the Kids Cancer Care Foundation of Alberta ([kidscancercare.ab.ca](http://kidscancercare.ab.ca)) to receive a donation of \$5,500.

## New hotel sector members

Unifor has been certified to represent approximately 50 new members at Paramount, a housekeeping subcontractor at the Montreal Airport Marriott In-Terminal Hotel. The group will join Local 62, which already represents employees at Montreal's Intercontinental Hotel.

The new members join Marriott members already represented by Unifor at the Sheraton Center, Delta Montréal and the Delta Trois-Rivières.

## Unifor details D-J Composites' union-busting efforts

Unifor issued a formal letter to Newfoundland and Labrador Labour Minister Gerry Byrne detailing ongoing union-busting efforts by U.S.-based employer D-J Composites toward its workforce in Gander.

"From the beginning of this lockout on December 19, this employer has had one goal in mind - to break the union," said Lana Payne, Atlantic Regional Director. "We want the Minister to understand how serious this situation is. Workers expect their department of labour to protect their rights, rights which are being trampled on daily by this employer."

The letter highlights recent actions by the employer, including importing foreign



D-J Composite workers have been locked out since December, 2016

workers from its Augusta, Kansas headquarters to perform bargaining-unit work and attempting to go around the union by making direct offers to individual unionized workers to return to work.

Despite the Newfoundland and Labrador Labour Relations Board ruling in May that found the employer was guilty of bargaining in bad faith, and D-J Composites being ordered to remove outrageous demands to gut seniority and make a new offer to the workers, the employer has

continued its union-busting campaign. A return to the bargaining table as ordered by the Board did not result in a settlement.

Additionally, in June Unifor filed two complaints with the federal government over what it believes is the illegal use of foreign workers, with both the Integrity Services Branch of Service Canada and with the ministers responsible for Immigration and Labour. Unifor has asked for an investigation but as of yet has received no response.

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cutting their own staff," Local 88 member Collen Wake told a town hall on trade in Ingersoll.

Local 88 President Dan Borthwick said Canada needs a new approach to trade that puts the needs of workers and communities first if we are to avoid seeing more jobs lost, such as the 475 this month at his plant as production of the Terrain moves to Mexico.

"The course of trade in Canada needs to change. Corporate power and investor privilege must be put in check," Borthwick told the town hall, attended by about 75 people.

NDP Essex MP and



Members meet at the NAFTA townhall in Ingersoll, Ontario

former Unifor Local 200 member Tracey Ramsey said only the wealthy and corporations have benefitted from NAFTA and other trade deals.

"Working people are an afterthought in trade negotiations, and that has

to change," said Ramsey.

The town hall was the first of what is hoped to be several discussions across Canada to gather input on establishing a people's agenda for trade. For more information visit [unifor.org/peoplestrade](http://unifor.org/peoplestrade).

>> **Continued from "Indigenous Games Underway..." on page 1**

Games which provide Indigenous youth, aged 13-19, with the opportunity to showcase their athletic abilities in 14 sport categories. The sporting competitions take place July 16-23 at world-class venues located across the Greater Toronto Area.

The theme of the Games is Team 88, which references the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 88th call to action directing Canada to support Indigenous sports.

"We must recognize the history of colonialism and acknowledge the cultural genocide against Indigenous people before we can move forward and push for change," said Dias. "Team 88 is about using the



Members volunteer at the North American Indigenous Games

power of sport to elevate us physically, mentally and spiritually so that together we can build a better future. Today we are all Team 88." said Dias.

The Games also include a Cultural Festival, sponsored by Unifor, from July 17-22 at York and McMaster Universities. The Festival celebrates Indigenous

heritage with traditional music and food, art exhibits and a marketplace.

"This is an amazing opportunity for Unifor to help showcase Indigenous culture to the wider community," said Deb Tveit, Assistant to the National President. "Members at Unifor booths at the festival locations were also able to

tell people about the work that our union has done to promote equality and to share our call for justice and reconciliation for Indigenous people."

More than 70 Unifor members from across the country volunteered at sporting events and the Cultural Festival to help make the games a success.

>> **Continued from "Ontario government..." on page 1**

to deal with fissured workplaces, successorship rights to protect against contract flipping and paid leave for survivors of sexual and domestic violence."

Unifor Local 103 Vice President Jane Krajc presented in North Bay, focusing on how unions build inclusive workplaces for workers with disabilities and stressed the need for card-based certification.

"The union came to the table not only to protect my job and my rights, but to bring focus to my abilities, working collaboratively with the company to accommodate me so that I could make a meaningful contribution in the workplace," said Krajc.

Rizvi recently held a province-wide conference

call to brief Ontario local unions and staff on the contents of new legislation. Unifor has also been working with the Ontario Federation of Labour, and has signed onto a longer list of priorities, as endorsed by labour unions across the province. Unifor partnered with the OFL to host a series of solidarity breakfast meetings prior to the hearings in Thunder Bay, North Bay, Windsor, London and Kitchener-Waterloo.

After travelling to 10 communities to hear from residents and business owners the Committee will use the feedback to help the government further develop the legislation in the fall.

Please visit: [unifor.org/changingworkplaces](http://unifor.org/changingworkplaces)

## Unifor challenges Manitoba's anti-union law

Unifor is proud to be part of the Partnership to Defend Public Services, the coalition of Manitoba workers' organizations that are challenging the province's anti-union legislation.

"Workers with good jobs are the first people that right-wing governments want to blame for fiscal problems of their own making," said National President Jerry Dias.

Conservative Premier Brian Pallister introduced Bill 28 in the spring as part of a larger attempt to cut funding to public services. The Bill unilaterally imposes a public sector wage freeze, thereby subverting Manitobans' constitutionally-protected

collective bargaining rights.

On July 4, Unifor and the other unions that comprise the Partnership to Defend Public Services filed for an injunction against the implementation of Bill 28 that will be followed by a full challenge to the law. The claimants say that, at the very least, the mandatory consultation process was nearly absent.

"Premier Pallister wants to strip workers of constitutionally-protected rights," said Western Regional Director Joie Warnock. "It failed in Saskatchewan under Brad Wall, and it will fail again with the PC government in Manitoba."



**IN THIS ISSUE** Unifor celebrates Indigenous sport and culture at the North American Indigenous Games. NAFTA town hall held to discuss a people's agenda for trade. Members across Ontario speak up at Fair Work, Better Jobs hearings. Court battle launched over anti-union legislation in Manitoba and more!

## Unifor mourns members killed on the job

Unifor deeply mourns the loss of two members who were recently killed at work in Kamloops, British Columbia and Peterborough, Ontario.

James G. Macleod (Jim) was taken from us following an incident involving a crane at the Domtar pulp mill in Kamloops, British Columbia on June 29, 2017. Macleod was 57 years old with 37 years of service in the mill. He was an active member of Unifor Local 10-B, serving as a member of the executive, a Local representative on union committees and as a convention delegate.

On July 4, 2017 a flag lowering ceremony was held in Macleod's honour

where his family, union members, staff, retirees and Domtar officials gathered together in mourning. A second Local 10-B brother, Ross Thompson, was injured in the incident and is recovering at home with his family.

Éric Labelle passed away on July 3, 2017 after being electrocuted on the job in Peterborough. Labelle was a member of Local 8284 in St-Léonard, Québec working for Expertech, a telecommunications network installation company. Labelle was 47 years old and had four children.

"On behalf of all Unifor members I want to extend



Éric Labelle



Jim Macleod

our sincere condolences to Éric's family, Jim's family and their many friends, loved ones and union brothers and sisters," said Unifor National President Jerry Dias, "Nobody should lose their life while trying to

earn a living."

Unifor is supporting ongoing investigations into both of the incidents. Unifor will continue to lobby all levels of government for stronger enforcement of safety regulations.