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VOLUME 5, NO. 15

AUGUST 3, 2017



unIFORM

MARCH 15, 2016
 "...a Sask. Party representative clarified that they would not privatize Crowns..." - CBC.ca

JULY 18, 2017
 "Preliminary discussions held on partial sale of SaskTel" - CTV headline

DID BRAD WALL LIE?

stand up for your crowns
 visit myCrowns.ca

Unifor is raising this billboard in Regina, Saskatoon and Moose Jaw to increase awareness of the move to privatize Crown corporations

Rebuilding a NAFTA for workers

As the first round of talks to revamp the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) approach Unifor is calling for a massive overhaul of the trade deal.

"International talks on trade have to go beyond a tweak here and a little change there," said Jerry Dias, National President. "What we need is a fundamental change in the way our governments approach trade."

A joint Unifor-UAW statement on auto and the re-negotiation of NAFTA blames the pact for the loss of hundreds of thousands of jobs and the closure of thousands of U.S. and Canadian manufacturing facilities. The unions warn that "NAFTA re-negotiations will only be successful if it leads to higher wages in all three countries, reverses trade deficits with Mexico, and creates new manufacturing

Solidarity for a Better World

Unifor members from coast to coast to coast will come together in Winnipeg, Manitoba to set political priorities and elect Industry Council reps on the National Executive Board at the 2017 Canadian Council.

Over a jam packed two and a half days, from August 18-20,

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Should we call Brad Wall a liar?

New revelations that Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall is aggressively pursuing the privatization of SaskTel, makes it increasingly difficult to conclude that he was truthful during the 2016 election.

"Brad Wall misled voters," said Jerry Dias, National President. "If the Sask Party wants to dismantle

public services and sell off Crown corporations that took generations to build, it should have the decency to run an election on the issue."

During the last Saskatchewan election campaign, Wall promised the CBC in writing that no Crown corporations covered under the Crown Corporations Act would be

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Launch of new Magazine

Unifor is proud to announce the evolution of Uniforum as it transforms from a biweekly newsletter to a new national magazine. The new Uniforum, published quarterly, will provide information on national campaigns and priorities, and will also highlight the activities of regional directors and national departments.

To ensure that you receive your free edition of the magazine, please register at unifor.org/subscribe. Current subscribers to the biweekly newsletter will continue to receive an updated online newsletter by email.

Timely coverage of news and events is also available at unifor.org/news or check out Unifor on social media at [Facebook.com/UniforCanada](https://www.facebook.com/UniforCanada) and on Twitter follow [@UnifortheUnion](https://twitter.com/UnifortheUnion).



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IMF says Trudeau government can do more on child care

Justin Trudeau arrived in Nova Scotia on July 21 as part of a 'working holiday' tour to promote and discuss several issues, both regional and national, including the Liberals' Canada Child Benefit. The program, implemented last year, is something he spoke of with pride, but has faced criticism from child care experts and most recently the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Researchers at the IMF concluded that the Canadian federal government can afford to spend \$8-billion annually to directly reduce the cost of child care spaces nationwide because the program would pay for

itself. Parents who can access quality, affordable child care are more likely to re-enter the workforce, thus contributing income tax dollars back into the government coffers.

"Leading authorities and international best practices have been showing us for years that a universal program where quality spaces are made accessible and affordable will do the most to support Canadian families," said Lisa Kelly, Director of the Unifor Women's Department. "The IMF isn't exactly radical. So when they are calling for public investment, we know our government can be doing a lot more."

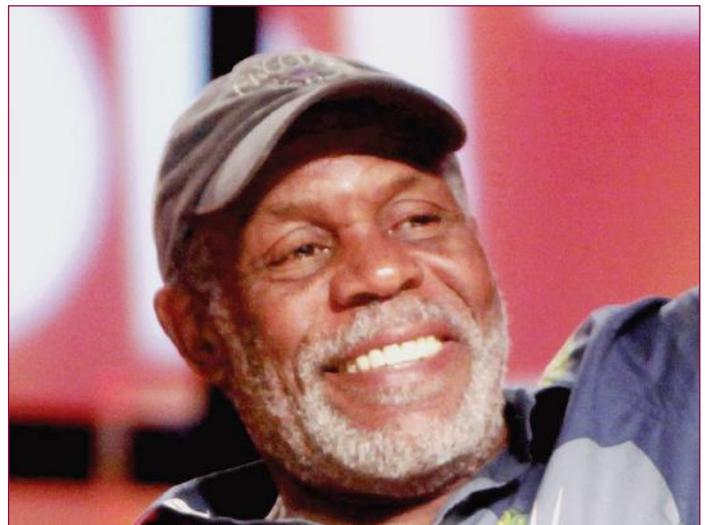


The proposal suggested by the IMF study is more than 10 times the amount the Liberals plan to invest in child care over the next decade and it would bring the cost of child care fees down by about 40% - a number that would be expected to allow more parents, particularly women, to re-enter the workforce.

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delegates will consider how to build solidarity to fight for workers' rights in the workplace, in the community and within our union. Delegates will hear from speakers and shape debate on how to better unite in the face of right-wing rhetoric and increasing discrimination, and how to come together to support reconciliation.

Unifor's Canadian Council will meet as NAFTA trade talks begin in Washington. "Coming together at Canadian Council during this landmark opportunity will give Unifor members the upper hand in developing and fighting for our working-class vision for fair and progressive trade," said Jerry Dias, National



Actor, activist and honorary Unifor member Danny Glover will return to speak to members at Canadian Council in Winnipeg

President.

Members who cannot attend the Council can watch keynote speeches and presentations online. Remarks from honorary Unifor member Danny Glover, world-renowned activist Maude Barlow, Canadian Labour

Congress President and Unifor member Hassan Yussuff and many more will be live-streamed at unifor.org/UniforCC17. Follow the conversation online on Twitter and be sure to use the hashtag **#UniforCC17**.

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jobs in the U.S. and Canada."

The joint union statement, found online at unifor.org/NAFTA, also outlines four key priorities in the re-negotiation of auto-related provisions:

- Strengthening labour standards and raising wages,
- Balanced trade,
- Real "made in North America" rules, and
- A fair share of benefits for workers in each country.

In preparation of NAFTA talks with the United States and Mexico, to be held in Washington, D.C. from Aug. 16-20, Unifor has also provided written

recommendations that go beyond the auto industry in a submission to the federal government.

Key Unifor recommendations include enforceable labour and environmental standards, elimination of the right of corporations to sue governments over lost profits, an overhaul of rules governing auto trade across borders, and measures to protect our food supply, cultural industries, and public services such as health and education. Read the complete submission at unifor.org/NAFTA.

"These recommendations will help ensure there is a different kind of policy approach to NAFTA and all future trade deals. It's about time that trade helped not hindered workers and



Unifor has submitted NAFTA recommendations to the federal government ahead of opening talks

communities," Dias said.

International trade strategy will be discussed and debated at the upcoming Canadian Council as Unifor prepares to implement its plan of action on trade. National President Jerry Dias will

also bring a multi-pronged recommendation on trade to the floor for delegates to consider.

For more information on the Unifor trade campaign please visit unifor.org/peoplestrade.

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privatized. But six months after winning re-election, the government amended the Act enabling up to 49% to be sold off to private interests.

More recently, Crowns Minister Dustin Duncan was forced to admit that backroom talks are underway to privatize Sasktel.

The birthplace of publicly-owned utilities, Saskatchewan's many Crown corporations are both successful and popular. The publicly owned services save residents money every day on costs like energy and phone bills. Other core public services like hospitals and schools are partially funded through dividends received from the Crowns.

Equally important, Crown corporations are a source of good union jobs in the province.

"Brad Wall has no mandate to sell off public assets that generate millions for the people of Saskatchewan," said Joie Warnock, Western Regional Director. "Selling-off Crown corporations would be a disaster for the long-term health of hospital and school funding."

Among other sectors, Unifor represents thousands of Crown corporation workers at SaskTel, SaskEnergy, SaskPower, and SaskWater.

To find out how you can take action visit:

mycrowns.ca

CANADIAN COUNCIL New Delegate Session

Thursday, August 17

6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Presentation Theatre

It's time to brush up on your skills and get ready for Council 2017.

All delegates are invited to an introductory session on rules and procedures, the agenda, and how to get active during Council.

SOLIDARITY 
FOR A
BETTER WORLD



Unifor donates over \$220,000 to BC relief

On July 12, Unifor responded to the wildfire crisis in BC's Interior with a \$100,000 donation to the Canadian Red Cross relief efforts. Unifor's regional councils have added another \$120,000 in donations, and on July 28 the Western Regional Office held a BBQ to raise additional funds bringing the total donation to well over \$220,000.

"Unifor members have been following the devastation caused by the fires very closely and we feel compelled to act," said Jerry Dias, National President. "I encourage every Unifor member and all Canadians to make a donation to the Red Cross

so that the affected families can rebuild and recover."

Unifor has several hundred members spread out across the affected area, including 100 Mile House, 150 Mile House, Dog Creek, Lac La Hache, Quesnel, Soda Creek, Wildwood, and Williams Lake.

"I want BC residents, Unifor members, and their communities to know that we want to do everything we can to support them during this traumatic time," said Lana Payne, Atlantic Regional Director.

With the support of the Red Cross local unions and members can make an online donation via a designated Unifor link

IN THIS ISSUE Unifor takes action on NAFTA as negotiations are set to begin. The fight escalates to save Saskatchewan's Crown corporations from privatization. Members provide aid to BC fire victims. Upcoming Canadian Council promises to be educational and inspiring. Uniforum newsletter to transform to national magazine and more!



A fundraiser BBQ is held at Unifor's Western Regional Office to aid BC fire victims and evacuees

www.redcross.ca/BCFires/Unifor. For those locals that prefer to donate via cheque, mail your donation to the National Office (205 Placer Court, Toronto, ON M2H 3H9). Please mark the envelope attention to the International Department.

The Canadian Red Cross says 50,000 people in the province have registered to receive assistance. Tens of thousands of British Columbians remain evacuated as 150 fires continue to burn across BC.