

# Just the Facts

Fiat-Chrysler Automobiles | Ford | General Motors

#AUTOTALKS16



LOCALS: (GM) 222, 636, 199; (Ford) 200, 240, 707, 584, 1324, (FCA) 444, 1285, 1498, 195, 1459

## What does the Auto Industry Mean to Canada?

**Direct Jobs:125,400**

**Every day in 2015, auto workers in Canada:**

**built 6,216 vehicles**

**produced \$256 million worth of products**

**earned \$21 million**

**paid \$5.2 million in income, payroll, sales and property tax**

**Auto workers' fundraising efforts also directly support community organizations such as the United Way, women's shelters and food banks.**

## Bargaining 2016

As Detroit 3 bargaining is set to begin with opening talks kicking off in August, the work of getting things ready is well under way. Unifor will officially start the 2016 Auto bargaining round on August 8 with all the D3 corporations by using a process sometimes referred to as 'the pass'. This is the initial meeting that takes place where the Master Bargaining committees from Unifor will pass the proposals to the companies. The proposals have been put together using the many surveys returned by members at all D3 locals and compiled into one document. Once this official pass has taken place, bargaining will gather momentum culminating with the deadline set for September.

"We don't take lightly the prospect of not being able to attain a deal by the deadline. We always keep our members' best interest in mind and we are always cognizant of their families and the impact that a work stoppage would have on them," says Greg Moffatt, Master Bargaining Chairperson for G.M. and Chairperson of the G.M. Oshawa Car Assembly Plant

The upcoming Strike Authorization Meetings will take place closer to the deadline and give the Union the power to bargain on the memberships' behalf. "When the members vote at these meetings they are authorizing the union to use any and all powers they have to attain the best contract they can," says Chris Taylor, Unifor Local 200 President, Chairperson of the Ford Master Bargaining committee and Chairperson of the Unifor Auto Council that comprises all the D3 Master Bargaining committees. "We can't stress enough how important it is that members 1) attend these meetings to get the most up to date information and 2) be there to vote in favour of strike action if required," he continues.



**2nd Unifor Convention  
2e Congrès d'Unifor**

Ottawa 22 – 26 August 2016



## Social Media

It has been mentioned before but is worth repeating.

Please follow the official Facebook and Twitter account (@AutoTalks16) of your Local Union and the National Union in order to get the most up to date and accurate information.

We ask that you follow the official pages because there may be times that some individuals will think they have the 'inside scoop' members and media alike; this most certainly will not be the case.

Updates on general progress will be communicated through social media. It is a powerful tool and we encourage everyone to use it to have the conversations that must be had, please act in defence of your union, your bargaining committees and your leadership.

We can use social media to show solidarity like never before. The official hashtag (#) for this round of bargaining is #AUTOTALKS16. When using social media regarding this round of talks, whether Facebook, Twitter, or any other social media platform, please use this hashtag.

A strong strike authorization sends a message to the corporations being dealt with that the members are behind their bargaining committees, have faith they will bargain in their best interests and will back them when their recommendations come forward. The more members that vote in favour of strike action, if needed, the greater the power given to the committee doing the bargaining. "Imagine if we were to go into bargaining and only 500 people said they authorized us to end negotiations if the time came to do so and go on strike," explains Dino Chiodo, Unifor Local 444 President, Chairperson of the Ontario Regional Council and Chairperson of the Fiat Chrysler Automobiles (FCA) Master Bargaining Committee, "it's a very different message sent to the company if we have 5 or 10 thousand people saying they have faith and will follow their leadership through the process."

Due to there being three different manufacturers there will be three separate deadlines for bargaining. The first deadline will be shortly after the target is named by Unifor National President Jerry Dias around Labour Day. At that time, the Master Bargaining Committees that are not attached to the company named will cease talks until a deal is reached with the initial target. Once this takes place, there will be a ratification meeting, where the members get time to ask questions regarding the contract and ultimately vote on whether to accept it or not. Once ratified, the next target will be dealt with and the same process takes place. Then finally, the last committee will deal with the remaining company to get a deal. If there are no work stoppages the last ratification meeting can very well take place in mid to late October.

It is important that as time ticks down to the deadline that members on their shop floors take cues from their representatives. They will be in contact with the committee in Toronto that will be keeping them apprised of any potential stoppages that can occur. Bargaining can sometimes get extremely tense and that tension is felt by every member. Please remember to remain in solidarity with your sisters and brothers and watch for cues from your union. Communication will happen during this time but due to the nature of the talks, very little can be divulged publicly until after a deal is reached. This is to protect the integrity of the negotiations. No details will go out on social media until after the ratification meetings so the media cannot play a role in influencing the members one way or another.

### Solidarity Sisters and Brothers

As described in the past through other 'Just the Facts' newsletters, staying together in solidarity and keeping everyone's best interest in mind will serve us all well during these uncertain times.