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# uniforum



BC NDP leader John Horgan kicks off election campaign with Unifor members by his side.

## BC election heats up

When British Columbia's election writ was dropped on April 11, Unifor was ready.

The union's Political Action and Membership Mobilization department has spent months training local member activists and planning out a strategy to defeat the Christy Clark government.

Clark has led the BC Liberals (a right-wing coalition that is not affiliated with the Liberal Party of Canada) since 2011 after her predecessor Gordon Campbell was forced to resign. She won an unlikely victory in the 2013 provincial election, but Unifor says that she's overseen a government that only caters to big business and party donors.

"Christy Clark is a premier for the wealthy," said Joie Warnock, Western Regional Director. "From education to job creation, the Clark government has been a disaster for working people."

## Atlantic newspapers purchase troublesome

On April 13, The Chronicle Herald newspaper in Halifax announced it had formed a new company - Saltwire Media - and had purchased 28 Atlantic Canada newspapers from Transcontinental. The deal made Saltwire the largest

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## Unifor launching new and innovative trade campaign

Unifor is set to officially launch a bold new Fair Trade Future campaign to change the way Canada negotiates international trade deals.

"We need trade deals that are structured to help workers find better jobs and to build stronger and cleaner communities for families," said Jerry Dias, National President.

Unifor has had very

effective trade campaigns in the past focused on such deals as NAFTA, the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement between Canada and Europe (CETA), the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), softwood lumber and more.

This new campaign will incorporate all of those campaigns into one, with the emphasis

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## Unifor.org has a new look!

There are exciting changes to the National website. Visit [unifor.org](http://unifor.org) to see the new, modern layout and navigation menu.

The site now includes easy to access sections for education, equity, and health and safety. Be sure to visit [unifor.org/uniforaction](http://unifor.org/uniforaction) for updates on ongoing campaigns, solidarity work and bargaining.

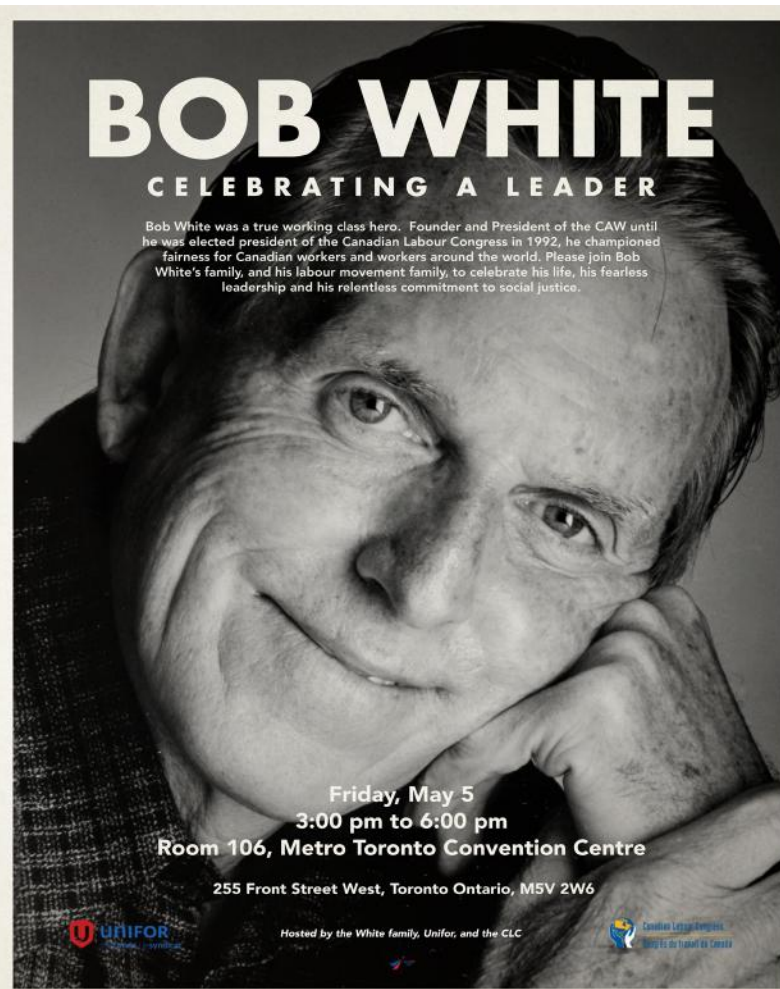
Online construction is still underway, so if you have a suggestion or comment tell us. Email [communications@unifor.org](mailto:communications@unifor.org) with your feedback.

## Climate Change – Plans to Action

The 2017 National Environment Conference is being held June 23-25 at the Family Education Centre in Port Elgin, Ontario. Register to join the conversation about climate policies, and how to protect and grow good jobs in a green economy.

To be part of this important national conference, speak with your Local President and register before the deadline on June 9.

Environmental activists, local union leadership, workplace representatives and members on Political Action committees are encouraged to attend. Details at [unifor.org/environment2017](http://unifor.org/environment2017).



## The CLC Convention is coming!

May 8-12, Toronto

Resolutions, debates, great speakers, elections and much more.

Be an active part of the labour movement. Register today.

Contact: [laura.garvey@unifor.org](mailto:laura.garvey@unifor.org) about Local registration.

More info at: [canadianlabour.ca/about-clc/conventions](http://canadianlabour.ca/about-clc/conventions)

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media group in the Atlantic.

What may seem to be just another shift in the media landscape is particularly shocking given the Herald's newsroom staff, members of CWA Canada, have been on strike for over 450 days. The strike began with Herald CEO Mark Lever claiming that drastic cuts to wages and benefits were needed because the business was so poor.

"A strong democracy relies on quality journalism," said Lana Payne, Atlantic Regional Director and former journalist. "A concentration of media like this in the region is troublesome, especially under an anti-worker, anti-union owner."



Newsroom workers at The Chronicle Herald have been on strike since January 23, 2016.

The Chronicle Herald is the country's largest privately-owned newspaper and as a private company has no obligation to make its financial statements or transactions public.

Unifor currently represents 80 workers at The Telegram, in St. John's, Newfoundland and

Labrador, which was one of the outlets included in the purchase.

"Bargaining is approaching at The Telegram," said Payne. "We're ready to stand up for good journalism and to ensure good jobs are protected."

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Unifor's election campaign aims to both increase voter turnout among members and raise the profile of the government's record so every British Columbian can make an informed choice on May 9. To maximize the impact, key electoral districts that are expected to be tight races have been targeted for member involvement.

For example, Clark's BC Liberals have changed forestry rules to allow a massive spike in the number of unprocessed logs to be exported—a move that has killed 30,000 jobs while putting millions into the pockets of forestry

companies.

Under Clark's leadership the Liberals have also jacked up costs for working British Columbians, everything from tuition fees, healthcare premiums, ferry fares, and auto insurance premiums have increased. Vancouver's housing market has become notoriously unaffordable on the BC Liberals' watch.

"Affordability in most parts of BC is approaching crisis levels," said Warnock. "Working people can't afford another four years of Christy Clark."

Several Unifor members have been booked off for the duration of the campaign to coordinate member-to-member efforts, including regular canvassing and phone calls. Unifor members have also been



Local member activists in BC ready to work to defeat the Christy Clark government.

contacted by direct mail and voicemail broadcasts.

"We're campaigning hard, but we're also campaigning smart," said Gavin McGarrigle, BC Area Director.

Unifor is augmenting the face-to-face

campaigning with a broad public campaign. Advertisements are running on television, radio, English and non-English print publications, and online. The ads can be viewed at

**Facebook.com/UniforCanada.**

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on setting new priorities for negotiating trade agreements. "Right now, trade deals are focused on giving more power to corporations, at the expense of working people. With this campaign, we are saying that must change. The needs of working people and communities must come first."

With NAFTA and softwood lumber now back up for negotiation, CETA inching toward ratification, trade with China and even talk of reviving TPP, Canada needs to refocus its trade strategy to emphasize the needs of working people.

Canada exports more than half a trillion dollars each year, plus billions more in service trade. About two-thirds of Unifor members

work in trade-related or trade-dependent industries across Canada.

"Trade is vital to Unifor members and their communities. We must be active on trade issues to create a better future," Dias said.

The campaign will launch officially at the August Canadian Council.

Campaign coordinators from across Canada meet next week to plot out the campaign, which will include town halls, rallies and much more organized across the country over the next year.

to get involved and learn more at **unifor.org/fairtradefuture.**

## Pension bill halted

Unifor's campaign against Bill C-27 has forced the federal government to take a step back, halting the bill's progression. The campaign continues to seek full withdrawal of the proposed legislation, which threatens pension security for members in federally regulated sectors.

"This shows the power of political lobbying," said Jerry Dias, National President. "The Liberal government tried to ram this through but the tremendous online response has made them think twice."

To date, over 2,600 members and retirees have signed Unifor's online petition, sending a clear message to the government that Bill C-27 is an attack on workers and retirees.

As a result, the Ministry of Finance announced further consultation before proceeding with the legislation.

Bill C-27 would allow Federal employers to convert defined benefit pensions to target benefit pensions, eliminating the legal obligation to deliver promised benefits. This conversion could reduce pension payments as plan members assume virtually all financial risk and responsibility to cover funding deficits.

If the Ministry of Finance has invited your Local to make a submission on C-27 contact Pensions and Benefits by emailing **david.leacock@unifor.org**

For more information visit **unifor.org/stopC27.**



**IN THIS ISSUE** Unifor is election ready for battle in BC. Concentration of ownership concerns rise following purchase of Atlantic newspapers. Unifor to launch new Fair Trade Future Campaign. Opposition to pension bill causes government to pause for additional consultation. A new and improved Unifor website and more!

## Cancer Fund benefits from book by Unifor member

Bob Hoffman, President of Local 39, has taken a passion project for his children and transformed it to benefit cancer patients in Northern Ontario. In addition to his union duties, Hoffman is the author of 'Dinosaurs of Prenaria', an adventure book inspired by bedtime stories he created for his kids.

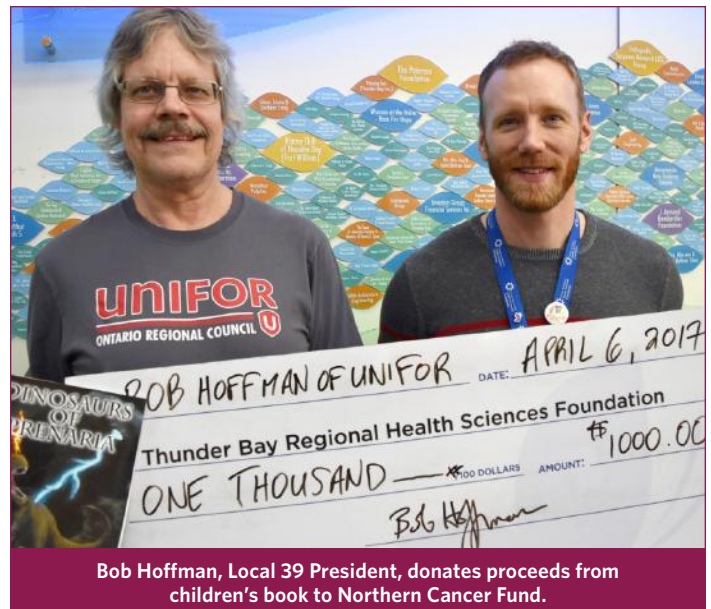
Hoffman pursued and landed a book deal, but just before it was published he lost his father to pancreatic cancer. Sadly, both his father-in-law and cousin also lost their lives to the disease.

"I watched all three loved ones suffer through cancer," said Hoffman. "So it was an easy decision to donate

the royalties from the book towards cancer research to help find a cure."

For every copy sold \$1 is donated to the Northern Cancer Fund. Last August, Hoffman shared his story with delegates at the National Convention in Ottawa where Jerry Dias, National President, put forth a motion to purchase 1,000 copies.

"This was a win-win as the purchase resulted in a \$1,000 donation to aid cancer patients, while the books will be distributed to the union's Family Education Centre and other locations across Canada to support children's literacy," said Dias.



**Bob Hoffman, Local 39 President, donates proceeds from children's book to Northern Cancer Fund.**

On April 6, 2017 Hoffman proudly presented a cheque to the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Foundation in support of the Northern Cancer Fund. He also donated a copy of the book to the hospital's paediatric unit to help young patients

temporarily take their minds off treatment.

'Dinosaurs of Prenaria' can be purchased at Chapters or directly from Bob Hoffman at [fireworksunlimited@shaw.ca](mailto:fireworksunlimited@shaw.ca).