

ONTARIO REGIONAL COUNCIL

Resolutions

and

Bylaw Amendments

Dec 1 - 2, 2023



unifor

Ontario Regional Council
Conseil régional de l'Ontario

R1 - Resolution 1 Media Campaign

Unifor Ontario Regional Council will:

Immediately begin a large media campaign to bring this matter to the public's attention and call on the public to contact NordStar (formerly Torstar), Metroland Media and its advertisers, local MPs and MPPs, the Minister of Canadian Heritage, Local Mayors and the Prime Minister to demand the reinstatement and protection of community news outlets as a matter of public interest

Because:

- Metroland Media has recently closed 70 community newspapers across southern Ontario and has or will layoff 605 media workers, including 106 members of Unifor Local 87-M; and
- This will result in community news deserts across the province and the weakening of democracy with community voices no longer being heard, including those of sisters and brothers fighting for better working conditions and wages; and
- The good work of Unifor's provincial and national leadership in lobbying for Bill C-18, the Online News Act, will protect community news and news employment but may take more than two years to take effect, too long to save newspapers that will disappear in the months, not years.

Respectfully Submitted By:
Local 87-M

R2 - Resolution 2 Lobby Government

Unifor Ontario Regional Council will:

Petition and lobby the government and national leadership to amend bankruptcy legislation, making employee preferred creditors so that severance and other monies owed to them are paid out first in the event a company goes bankrupt or seeks bankruptcy protection.

Because:

- Metroland Media has recently closed 70 community newspapers across southern Ontario and has or will lay off 605 media workers, including 106 members of Unifor Local 87-M and is using bankruptcy protection legislation to avoid paying those employees severance; and
- NordStar (formerly Torstar) is also using bankruptcy protection legislation to shift an enormous amount of debt from one asset in the Toronto Star to another in Metroland in an attempt to pay off via cents on the dollar; and
- Employers and corporations of all sizes across the industries, from Stelco to Sears, have taken advantage of lax bankruptcy legislation to minimize business losses on the backs of workers who lose out on unpaid wages, pensions and other benefits.

Respectfully Submitted By:
Local 87-M

Proposed Bylaw Amendment #1

Unifor Ontario Regional Council will:

Amend by-law Article 6, add new number 42; Members of the ORC Executive Board or the ORC Standing Committees must not hold more than one (1) position.

Because:

- Standing Committee members are meant to guide and advise the ORC Executive Board in matters they are experts in; and
- Creating space for different Unifor members in leadership positions at the ORC Executive Board of Standing Committee members in their respective caucus as listed in Article 2 Statement of Principles – Effective Clause is in keeping with the ORC Principles in the bylaws.

Respectfully Submitted By:
Local 229
and
Local 240

Proposed Bylaw Amendment #2

Unifor Ontario Regional Council will:

Amend the Ontario Regional Council Bylaws Article #4 to include:

25. Any member in good standing of a Unifor Local Union that is affiliated to the Ontario Regional Council shall be entitled to attend Ontario Regional Council meetings as an observer. The observer will be verified as a member in good standing by their local union, which will then register the observer. The observer will be responsible for all costs of attending council, including making their own hotel reservations and planning their own transportation, unless otherwise agreed to by the Local Union. The Ontario Regional Council will reserve the right to limit attendance of said observers based on venue capacity.

Because:

- The Unifor Constitution already provides that members in good standing are entitled to attend the Unifor Convention as observers, and the same principle of openness and transparency to members should apply to the Ontario Regional Council; and
- Unifor members should be able to observe the democratic process of the Union; and
- Providing members with the right to attend Ontario Regional Council meetings as observers is in keeping with Unifor's principles of being accountable and transparent, open and inclusive, and democratic; and
- Allowing members to observe Ontario Regional Council meetings will increase engagement, understanding and support for the goals and campaigns of the Union.

Respectfully Submitted By:
Local 88