Aerospace investment welcome

Unifor is welcoming an investment by Pratt & Whitney of close to $1 billion in research and development over the next four and a half years. This investment is made possible in part by funding from the federal government in the form of a repayable contribution of...

Bandit cabs gaining attention

A private member’s bill introduced in Ontario to address app-based bandit cabs in the province deserves to be supported by all parties, Unifor says.

“Strong legislation is needed to protect the public against bandit taxis in Ontario,” said Amrik Singh, president of Unifor Local 1688, which represents taxi drivers in Ottawa.

The Protecting Passenger Safety Act introduced by Ottawa South Liberal MPP John Fraser would fine drivers between $500 and $30,000 per offence.

Drivers could also receive three demerit points, see their driver’s licenses suspended for 30 days and their cars impounded for 30 days.

Singh was part of a delegation to Queen’s Park recently that met with Minister of Government and...
Breast cancer linked to workplace

Unifor is part of a groundbreaking new project examining the risk to women from breast cancer caused by workplace exposure to chemicals.

“New research linking workplace chemicals to breast cancer puts the dangers for women at work in a whole new light,” said Sari Sairanen, Director of Health and Safety for Unifor.

The campaign “Put Breast Cancer Out of Work,” kicks off at a conference in Toronto in January 2014. The event will bring together workers, researchers, and activists to develop a plan of action.

Breast cancer has been traditionally linked to family and reproductive history, but new research linking it to workplace hazards exposes just how dangerous work can be for women.

The research was conducted in southwestern Ontario, studying women in several sectors including auto manufacturing, canning, and farming. It concluded that exposure to endocrine-disrupting chemicals and carcinogens at work led to increased risk of breast cancer.

Health unions before arbitrator

Arbitration hearings into a bill to reduce the number of healthcare union in Nova Scotia resumed recently with Unifor’s lawyer, Barry Wadsworth, arguing that any decision the arbitrator makes must comply with the workers’ rights under Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

James Dorsey, the appointed arbitrator, will have until January 19, 2015 to decide the future of collective bargaining for health care workers in the province.

Wadsworth emphasized the impact the government’s plan would have on health care workers and quality of care.

He specifically noted that while Bill 1 states it was designed to achieve “stable and harmonious labour relations”, it would actually cause massive upheaval and disharmony between workers, the unions that would be appointed to represent them and even the health care managers they have been working with for decades to solve labour problems.

“Workers must trust their bargaining agent, and this trust takes time – sometimes years – to build,” said Wadsworth. “Our proposal for bargaining associations will meet all of the government’s objectives and provide the labour peace the government says it wants. It is unreasonable to think that a shuffling of members between unions will end harmoniously.”
Aerospace Investment welcome

$300 million.

“There’s no question that we welcome this type of announcement, this investment will provide much needed stability for workers in the aerospace industry,” said Camille Larochelle, unit chair for Pratt & Whitney at Unifor local 510.

The investment shows the need for a policy for the aerospace industry to insure the strength and vitality of the industry which plays an important role in Quebec’s economy. Unifor has developed a series of proposals increase the stability of aerospace companies and jobs in the sector.

“A concrete strategy needs to be put in place to support manufacturing in Quebec, including in the aerospace industry,” said Sylvain Martin, Assistant to the Quebec Director.

Unifor also notes that the investment at Pratt & Whitney should be tied to employment.

“It’s important to know where this money will be directed,” said Larochelle. “As new projects and products are developed, we should see that investment turned in to new jobs here in our community.”

Martin also said it is important for the Quebec government to ensure that management of its natural resources are aimed at sustaining manufacturing within the province.

Uber bill welcomed

Consumer Services Minister David Orazietti and a group of New Democrat MPPs on the issue.

He urged all political parties in the Ontario legislature to support the bill, and pledged to work to help ensure its passage.

Taxi licencing rules, regulations and bylaws evolved over time to address specific issues of safety and fairness as they arose, Singh said.

Allowing app-based cab companies to skirt such laws would be step backwards, he said.

In British Columbia, the province required that Uber seek a limousine license in order to operate in the province. Uber has refused to comply.

Labour relations have been tense over the past few years, with disciplinary measures being a major irritant for the members. The new contract introduces several adjustments to the clauses governing discipline. Members also made a catch-up gain of 2.4% in vacation time, compensating for concessions made in the previous contract. The four-year contract, which contains elements of the pattern deal reached earlier this year with Resolute Forest Products, includes annual salary increases of two per cent, a lump-sum payment of $1,000 and contributions to the Paid Education Leave program.

School bus concerns...

Unifor school bus drivers and national staff visited Queen’s Park recently to discuss the request for proposals process for awarding bus routes.

After a week on strike, the 650 members of Unifor Local 233 in Temiscaming, Quebec, have ratified a new collective agreement that addresses many concerns with discipline and tense labour relations.

“Thanks to the shift in the company’s attitude and the fact that representatives of senior management joined the talks at the bargaining table, we were able to break this impasse,” said Local 233 President Roger Gauthier.

School bus concerns...

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/~Continued from “School bus concerns...” on page1
Unifor scholarship winners announced

Unifor is proud to introduce the scholarship recipients for the 2014/2015 school year.

Jim Ashton Memorial Scholarship
Moeed Ehtisham Saeed
Major: Chemistry
Son of Saeed Ahmed
Unifor Local 112

Larry Bauer Memorial Scholarship
Jordan Rose Molloy
Major: Criminology
Daughter of Stephen Molloy
Unifor Local 444

Dan Benedict Memorial Scholarship
Filip Szymanski
Major: Engineering
Son of Piotr Szymanski
Unifor Local 2169

Rosemary Brown Memorial Scholarship
Audrey Medrano
Major: Nursing
Daughter of Ajith Aluthwatta
Unifor Local 40

Cesar Chavez Memorial Scholarship
Shyan Van Heer
Major: Life Sciences
Son of Shayne Van Heer
Unifor Local 1894

Tommy Douglas Memorial Scholarship
Riel Castro-Zunti
Major: Engineering
Son of Teresita Castro
Unifor Local 4209

Terry Fox Memorial Scholarship
Gurbakhashish Bassi
Major: Nursing
Daughter of Gurmail Bassi
Unifor Local 111

George Hutchens Scholarship
Rebecca McCallum
Major: Public Affairs & Policy Management
Daughter of Joe McCallum
Unifor Local 99P

Haley Birrell
Major: Environmental Engineering
Daughter of Kyle Donnelly
Unifor Local 40-0

Madison Moore
Major: Arts/Psychology
Daughter of Brian Moore
Unifor Local 483

Bud Jimmerfield Memorial Scholarship
Brianne Scott
Major: Nursing
Daughter of Barry Scott
FFAW/Unifor

Peter Klym Scholarships
Gabi Chaumeil Mercer
Major: History/Law
Daughter of Helen Mercer
Unifor Local 333-06

Ashlee Kristen Zomers
Major: Speech Language Pathology
Daughter of Lee Zomers
Unifor Local 1996-0

L.H. (Henri) Lorrain Scholarships
Reid McNeve
Major: Instrument Mechanic
Son of Bruce McNevin
Unifor Local 1119

Allison Cain
Major: Physical Therapy Assistant

Happy Holidays!
May your season be full of joy and justice.

Patrick McEvoy Memorial Scholarship
Emily Albert
Major: Social Worker
Daughter of Amy Rubino-Start
Unifor Local 229

Tom Pickford Memorial Scholarship
Abigail Porter
Major: Engineering
Daughter of Dawn Shannon/Maxwell Porter
Unifor Local 5080

Victor Reuther Memorial Scholarship
Thomas Dobrescu
Major: Wind Turbine Technology
Unifor Local 2002

Promoting Equality Scholarship
Kaarina Swinburnson
Major: Teaching
Daughter of Sean Swinburnson
Unifor Local 114

Unifor Local 52A

Nelson Mandela Memorial Scholarship
Brian Espinoza
Major: Political Science
Son of Absalon Espinoza
Unifor Local 4268

Dennis McDermott Memorial Scholarship
Rachel Krause
Major: Public Health/Health Sciences
Daughter Gary Krause
Unifor Local 199

Evelyn McGarr Scholarships
Carly Parks
Major: Public Affairs & Policy Management
Daughter of Mark Anthony
Unifor Local 222

Lori Musselman
Major: Kinesiology
Daughter of Gail Musselman
Unifor Local 1106

Unifor Local 229

Unifor Local 2