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Lana Payne with Unifor members at a Stop the Cuts rally outside Northwood Manor, a long-term care facility in Halifax

Yussuff re-elected CLC President

Unifor member Hassan Yussuff was re-elected to a second three-year term as president of the Canadian Labour Congress at its recent convention in Toronto, vowing to continue to mobilize working people across the country.

"We must keep this energy, organize in our communities, and do more so that all people are treated fairly and equally," Yussuff told a rally for decent work and better protections for precarious workers held during the convention.

His re-election follows his historic win three years earlier, when he became the first worker of colour to hold the post. Also elected were Marie Clarke Walker as Secretary-Treasurer, as well as Larry Rousseau and Donald Lafleur as Executive Vice-Presidents. The

Unifor Pride is Political

From May 12-14, more than 100 delegates attended the national Pride Conference and learned from empowering speakers who shared a lifetime of experiences.

A series of panels tackled current LGBTQ issues in Canada and around the world with a clear message about the need to politicize pride events.

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Members mobilizing for Nova Scotia election amid health care cuts

Members in Nova Scotia are gearing up for a provincial election on May 30 and the stakes are high. Incumbent Premier Stephen McNeil has relentlessly attacked workers with laws that have resulted in a health care system in chaos and an entire public sector workforce without a negotiated agreement.

"McNeil calls himself a Liberal, but while his federal counterparts are reversing anti-worker laws, he's busy attacking unions and stripping workers' rights," said Lana Payne, Atlantic Regional Director. "Many folks in Nova Scotia identify with Trudeau's brand of Liberals, as we saw in the

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National Environment Conference June 23-25

As the economy is actively re-shaped to reduce carbon-intensive industries, Unifor and the rest of the labour movement has an important role to play in fighting for workers' and communities' rights to a just and ethical transition.

Transition can take many forms, including retraining and secure pension options. Respect for indigenous peoples' rights are also fundamental for economic transition policies.

Conference sessions for Climate Change – Plans to Action will offer a space to exchange knowledge, practices, experience and ambition for promoting healthier workplaces, communities and our world.

Environmental activists, local union leadership, workplace representatives and Political Action committee members are encouraged to attend. Learn more at unifor.org/events



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Alberta Labour Code under review by NDP

Generations of right-wing governments in Alberta have given employers many unfair advantages under the provincial Labour Code, especially when it comes to letting employers intimidate workers trying to form a union.

All of this could change in 2017 as the Alberta NDP government is set to review the legislation and hear from members of the public about what needs to be fixed.

In response, Unifor is signing onto a province-wide campaign called "Unstack the Deck" led by the Alberta Federation of Labour (AFL). The campaign aims to raise awareness about the rights that workers have lost under previous governments and it seeks to mobilize working

people to have their say in the public hearings.

According to the AFL, the Labour Code in Alberta is premised on the idea that collective bargaining is a harmful practice and should be contained or discouraged altogether. As a result, minor cosmetic changes to the Code will do nothing to help workers. The only solution is a major overhaul.

Unifor is calling on all members in Alberta to get active in the campaign and to take advantage of the political moment.

"In Alberta, this is the first opportunity for progressive workplace law reform in our lifetime," said Joie Warnock, Western Regional Director. "We can't waste this chance. All Albertans win when the



Unifor joins AFL in province-wide campaign called "Unstack the Deck"

law protects and promotes free and fair collective bargaining."

The Unstack the Deck campaign has begun circulating material that demonstrates the benefits of higher rates of unionization on both individuals and the broader economy.

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Akio Maroon, who sits on the executive board of Pride Toronto, explained that pride should be more than a PR strategy, saying that, "We need to lean in to challenge and change systems of oppression."

Unifor members participated in more than 15 local pride celebrations last summer, and hope to be present at even more this year. Several attendees highlighted the need for union involvement in local LGBTQ groups and events suggesting that visibility signals safety to those who still face homophobia and transphobia at work.

The Sunday morning workshop provided an overview on how to make work safer and



Delegates at national Pride Conference discuss politicizing pride

more supportive for transgender coworkers, from bargaining protection for gender identity, to taking political action to defend transgender rights. Presenter Adrienne Smith explained a simple, respectful, way to confront

assumptions—just ask people what pronouns they use.

Delegates left informed, connected, and committed to go out and bring Unifor's dedication to social justice to communities all over this country.

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Executive is the first in the history of the Congress to have a majority of workers of colour represented.

National President Jerry Dias praised the election, "This is an important election in the Congress and I feel confident that the future of Canada's labour movement is in good hands."

Convention delegates, including more than 1,100 from Unifor, adopted policy papers to fight for trade deals that help working people, establish pharmacare, confront inequity and advance fairness and human rights in the workplace and in society.

Policy papers passed also

layout a plan to lobby and work towards green jobs, including just transition for workers whose lives are already dramatically changed by climate change.

"It's the right thing to do and it's the right time," Ken Smith, President of Unifor Local 707A in Fort McMurray, said during a discussing about the green economy policy paper.

Dr. Cindy Blackstock of First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada received the CLC's Human Rights Award. She challenged delegates to take action to end racial discrimination and said, "I want to live in a nation where Aboriginal children don't have to recover from their childhoods."

On trade, Yussuff noted that government



More than 1,100 members attended the CLC convention in Toronto.

negotiators too often listen solely to corporate leaders, and explained the urgent need for organized labour to collectively take on an active, coordinated role to push the needs of

workers in future trade talks. Taking up this challenge Unifor is ramping up campaign efforts to lobby for fair trade. Visit unifor.org/fairtradefuture for info.

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federal election, but McNeil is far from supportive of the middle class and families."

Unifor members have been actively protesting anti-worker laws and have been engaged in a member-to-member and lobbying campaign against McNeil's multi-million dollar cuts to long-term health care.

"The cuts to long-term care have meant nursing homes had to cut back on food and sanitary supplies for seniors," said Shauna Wilcox, member of Local 4600 and political outreach coordinator. "As a caregiver, it breaks my heart to see our seniors treated this way, so we're working hard to encourage people to vote for a government that will restore dignity for

our seniors and respect for long-term care workers."

Work continues during the election period as information leaflets are being distributed directly to members and the campaign underway seeks to encourage every Unifor member to get to the polls and vote.

Payne expressed an urgency to mobilize the people of Nova Scotia. "We have an opportunity to elect a government that will work for working people. A minority government is within reach, but all Unifor members must work very hard and speak with families, friends and coworkers about the importance of voting."

Unifor donates \$35,000 to Quebec flood relief

Unifor donated a total of \$35,000, including \$5,000 from its Quebec Council, to Red Cross Quebec flood relief efforts.

"Across Canada, Unifor members have watched with growing concern the natural disaster unfolding in Quebec. We hope these donations will help bring some comfort and assistance," National President Jerry Dias said.

The donations will help the Red Cross as it assists flood victims relocate and to feed their families. The union's support is in addition to numerous donations from individual Unifor members and Locals.

"In times of need, we

must all come together to help one another and to ensure our families and communities get the assistance they need," said Quebec Director Renaud Gagné.

Unifor represents more than 53,000 workers in Quebec, with about half in Montreal, the largest city in Quebec to declare a state of emergency due to the floods. The flooding has affected more than 170 municipalities across Quebec and forced more than 3,000 people to leave their homes.

While flood waters have begun to recede, the damage done remains and the need for assistance continues.



Unifor provides aid to South Sudan

Unifor's Social Justice Fund has donated \$100,000 to Oxfam Canada to help provide famine relief in South Sudan and other countries facing a regional catastrophic food crisis.

"Roughly five million people are struggling to survive the hunger crisis in South Sudan and immediate funds are needed to save lives, end the famine and stop it from spreading," said Jerry Dias, National President. "This donation is about international solidarity and our union is proud to offer support for life-saving aid to those who so desperately need it - it's the right thing to do."

The Executive Director

of Oxfam Canada Julie Delahanty recognized the union and said, "Unifor's generous support will allow us to reach many more families with food, clean water and sanitation, and ensures that the needs of women and children, often the most at risk, are accounted for when setting up these essential services."

Social justice is one of Unifor's core beliefs, and through the Social Justice Fund the union is able to translate that belief into action to help marginalized people around the world. "We have a moral responsibility to do whatever we can to support the families of this famine,"

IN THIS ISSUE Members mobilizing for Nova Scotia election. Donations offer support to Quebec flood relief. Delegates at national Pride Conference discuss politicizing pride. Unifor joins AFL in province-wide campaign called "Unstack the Deck". National Environment conference is coming and more!...



National Secretary-Treasurer Bob Orr and Mohamad Alsadi, Unifor Director of Human Rights and International department present Unifor's donation to Oxfam.

said Mohamad Alsadi, Director, Human Rights and International Department.

Delahanty added "Unifor has a long history of stepping up to help humanitarian agencies like Oxfam Canada respond to crises, and their support

for South Sudan comes at a critical moment."

Donations to Oxfam Canada can be made at oxfam.ca/unifor. For more information on the Social Justice Fund visit unifor.org/sjf.