Drivers support Criminal Code change

In meetings with MPs and in testimony to a Senate committee June 18, representatives of bus drivers and taxi drivers shared their support for S-221, a bill to amend the Criminal Code to include options for stiffer penalties for those convicted of assaulting drivers.

“Our members provide a valuable public service, but that also puts them in danger,” said Nathan Woods, a transit operator working for Coast Mountain Bus in British Columbia and president of Unifor Local 111.

“We're asking for stronger deterrents to combat violence in our workplace.”

Bill S-221 proposes to amend the Criminal Code to require judges to consider a transit driver’s occupation as

Shooting highlights need for armoured car changes

The recent shooting in Toronto during an attempted robbery on an armoured car underscores the need for improved safety regulations in the industry, argues Unifor.

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Pride in our diversity

Hundreds of Unifor activists, members, leaders, staff, families and supporters came out to be part of the union’s efforts around World Pride in Toronto June 20-29, culminating in a bold and energetic showing at the parade on June 29. Unifor was one of 350 groups to join the parade.

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#unifor

Here's a selection of tweets about @UniforTheUnion

@siempre1907 · Busy @VIA_Rail Montreal train station for the National Holiday. Workers @UniforTheUnion doing a great job.

@cherrirobinson #unifor at the build site for the amazing Unifor float in the toronto pride parade...shaping up nicely! pic.twitter.com/50zpsaDmZC
In brief

Local 4209, Clarke
Unifor Local 4209 members at Clarke transport have ratified a new collective agreement that contains strong economic gains for the 12 employees.

The three-year contract includes a 2% per year wage increase in each year and a one-dollar per hour increase for part-time employees. The previous deal expired on May 31.

Seafarer Day
Unifor marked the International Day of the Seafarer on June 25 by encouraging members to share their gratitude on social media to acknowledge the workers who serve to connect the world’s economies.

“Canada is a resource-rich country and a third of our GDP comes from the products we export,” says Jerry Dias, Unifor National President. “The difficult jobs of those at sea support industries across our country and bring the very best of Canada to the rest of the world.”

Around the world, people used the hashtag #thankyouseafarers to thank ship and port workers for their efforts.

Photo spotlight
SUBMIT YOUR PHOTOS TO COMMUNICATIONS@UNIFOR.ORG

Unifor members were in Port Elgin recently for the Aboriginal/Indigenous Workers and Racialized Workers/Workers of Colour Conference.

Activists, many from Unifor, delivered a 40-foot petition demanding a $14 minimum wage in Ontario.

Unifor protects pensions, benefits

Unifor Local 1996 at PepsiCo in Peterborough ratified an important collective agreement that protects current workers and new hires on June 15.

The agreement was accepted by an overall vote of 86 per cent.

Despite significant pressure to agree to concessions, the Unifor local negotiated to maintain a defined benefit pension plan for all current employees and new hires.

Additionally, the agreement maintains that there is no cap on drug benefits.

At a time of significant threats from employers to leave communities and intense pressure to make concessions, Unifor is proud to have protected members’ pensions and benefits.

A recent report by DBRS Ltd. found that defined benefit pension plans in Canada are gaining financial strength, thanks to improved investments.

Unifor tops JD Power awards

Cars and trucks made by Unifor members topped the list of those winning prestigious JD Power awards handed out recently.

“This shows the dedication and quality of work done by our members,” said Bill Murnaghan, director of Unifor’s Research Department.

Topping the list of Unifor-made vehicles on the awards list were: GMC Terrain, Chrysler Town & Country, Dodge Challenger, Ford Edge and Lincoln MKX.

“Those Canadians know something about building cars,” Dave Sargent of JD Power told a meeting of the Automotive Press Association, where the awards were announced.

As well, the Unifor-represented CAMI plant in Ingersoll placed second as the best-quality plant in North America.

The top award went to Toyota’s Cambridge plant building the Lexus RX luxury utility vehicle, while the company’s Woodstock plant came in third.

“Toyota’s Canadian operations are a strong asset for the company,” Murnaghan said, adding the results show that public support for the auto industry is warranted. “Canadian workers consistently deliver a strong quality advantage that all levels of government should support as a source of good jobs.”

UNIFOR COMMUNICATIONS - KATIE ARNUP, SARAH BLACKSTOCK, IAN BOYKO, SHELLEY BURGOYNE, SHANNON DEVINE, MARIE-ANDRÉE L’HEUREUX, STUART LAIDLAW, AND ANNE MARIE VINCENT

www.Unifor.org | @UniforTheUnion
Unifor members rallied outside the offices of Minister of Public Safety Steven Blaney calling for improved armoured car safety. June 5 over the union’s concerns about safety within the industry.

For more, go to www.unifor.org/safecargo

Did you know?

Unifor represents more than 86,000 members. The Unifor Women’s Conference will be held August 10-13 at the Family Education Centre in Port Elgin. For more information, go to: unifor.org/en/whats-new/event/2014-womens-conference

Van Jones to keynote Good Jobs Summit

CNN commentator, social justice advocate and bestselling author Van Jones will deliver the keynote address for the multi-partner national Good Jobs Summit, taking place in Toronto in the fall.

Van Jones is co-host of CNN’s Crossfire reboot, and president and co-founder of Rebuild the Dream, a platform for bottom-up, people-powered innovations to help fix the U.S. economy.

Van has written two New York Times best sellers, worked as the green jobs advisor to the Obama White House and is the founder of Green For All, a national organization working to get green jobs to disadvantaged communities.

“We think that Van Jones will make an incredible contribution to the conversation that we need to have here in Canada about how we create quality employment opportunities, particularly for young workers and students,” said Jerry Dias, Unifor National President.

“We know that the economy is churning out an increasing number of part-time, temporary and precarious jobs, which many cannot even afford to live on - we need to have a serious conversation about solutions.”

The Good Jobs Summit, expected to draw at least 1,000 people, takes place October 3-5 in Toronto, plus regional events across Canada.

For more, go to http://www.goodjobssummit.ca/
Unifor out in full colour for Pride!

More than 200 Unifor LGBT members, activists, allies, leaders, staff, supporters and family members came out to participate in the union’s first Toronto Pride float on June 29.

Check out a Pride event in your area!

St. John’s - July 14-20
Halifax - July 26
Charlottetown - July 27-August 2
Vancouver - July 28-August 4
Fredericton - August 10-16
Montreal - August 11-17
Calgary - August 22-September 1
Quebec City - August 28-31

For more information, please visit: www.unifor.org/ Pride