



Ontario Regional Director's

RECOMMENDATIONS

Port Elgin, April 25-27, 2014

1. **Health Accord, Medicare and BC Court Challenge**

I recommend that Unifor Ontario Local Unions join with our allies, including health coalitions to play a leading role in defending Canada's health care system from the Harper government's neglect and chronic underfunding of services on a provincial level. This will include:

- Supporting the Canadian Health Coalition campaign and actions leading into the 2015 federal election, marking the end of the 2004 health accord on March 31, 2014, effectively ending stable federal funding to provinces and territories for the next decade, and taking \$36 billion dollars out of health care.
- Working with provincial and local health coalitions to demand our government stop creeping privatization of hospital services, as well as support other campaigns, including the demand for an evidence-based, minimum, measurable, enforceable standard of care in long-term care.
- Providing a one-time financial contribution to Canadian Doctors for Medicare and the BC Health Coalition from the ORC of \$25,000.00. This donation will be used to support their intervener status in the case that Dr. Brian Day (aka Dr. Profit) has taken to the courts in BC to challenge the government on the rights of citizens to be able to purchase health care.

2. **National Day of Mourning**

I recommend, in recognition of our historic support and activism in observing April 28 as our National Day of Mourning, honouring those that are killed or injured on the job that we reinforce our commitment to workplace safety in Canada and abroad. In Canada, at a time where employers look to hire students and younger workers, in many circumstances, without providing appropriate health and safety training our special emphasis is needed. I further recommend that all local unions notify the Unifor president's office immediately when a fatality or critical injury takes place in a Unifor workplace.

I further recommend that Unifor Ontario locals mark April 28 - the Day of Mourning - by commemorating the first anniversary of the Rana Plaza garment factory collapse. The nine-storey factory complex, where dozens of Western retailers were making clothing, collapsed on April 24 last year, killing 1,138 people and injuring more than 2,000.

I recommend that local unions distribute information to members and use their web sites and social media tools to remember this disaster which highlights the exploitation and neglect in the global garment industry.

Information and resources, including on-line solidarity actions can be found at:

<http://www.industrialunion.org/>

<http://en.maquilasolidarity.org/node/1181>

3. **Ontario Provincial Election**

I recommend that Unifor Ontario commit itself to do everything necessary in the next provincial election to achieve a progressive government that respects trade union rights and the role of the labour movement.

Unifor will campaign actively for a pro-family and pro-worker positive agenda for Ontario, including:

- a) Labour law reform as proposed by the Ontario Federation of Labour to protect contract and precarious workers and to modernize and democratize legislation and regulations on the right to organize. Specifically, contract workers should have legal protection for their job and their union when contracts change hands. Organizing rules should ensure that unions have access to employee lists and provide for free and fair elections including by offsite and on-line balloting.
- b) A real jobs program based on investments in manufacturing jobs and innovation, and appropriate funding to maintain and expand Ontario public sector jobs.
- c) No cuts health care and education budgets, and an end to P3 privatization of Ontario services.
- d) A "CPP like" Ontario Pension Plan.

Unifor will campaign vigorously to ensure that the Hudak Conservatives do not become government in Ontario. Unifor will consult with our local unions, the trade union movement and community allies to elect a majority of progressive, pro-labour candidates. If no party forms a majority government, Unifor will support a progressive minority government.

Unifor will give priority to constituencies where there are significant numbers of Unifor members and where crucial fights will be waged that determines the outcome of the election.

Unifor Ontario Regional Council Executive will make further recommendations when the election is called.

4. **Municipal Elections**

I recommend that Unifor Local Unions engage actively in the October 27, 2014 Ontario Municipal Elections by working with their District Labour Councils to support candidates who support working family issues that include public services, fair wages, housing, transit and good schools for our children.

Local Unions are urged to contact the Unifor Membership Mobilization Department for training and resources about community and municipal political involvement.

In Toronto, Unifor will work with the Toronto and York Labour Council to elect Olivia Chow as Mayor and elect a progressive majority of counsellors.

5. **CLC Convention and Elections**

I recommend that Ontario Local Unions send their full delegations to the Canadian Labour Congress Convention May 5 - 9, 2014 and endorse Hassan Yussuff, for the position of President. Furthermore I recommend that Unifor Ontario convention delegates actively campaign to elect Hassan Yussuff, as the Canadian Labour Congress President, and work to ensure maximum delegate attendance for the election.

6. **Good Jobs Summit**

I recommend that Ontario Council and Local Unions organize actively around the Good Jobs Summit, including:

- Identifying partners and issues in our communities, industries and workplaces where a “Good Jobs” issue can be highlighted, and to take actions such as making a report on the issue, recommending a solution, or lobbying or organizing around these issues.
- Giving support to the Canadian Federation of Students Ontario Locals around their initiatives on student debt, accessible education, student jobs and unpaid internships.
- Sending a large number of Local Union activists and young workers to the Good Jobs Summit in October, and to the Unifor Young Workers Conference that will be organized in concert with the Summit.
- Ensuring that Ontario regional issues and solutions around Good Jobs are part of the National Good Jobs Agenda and Action Plan. These issues and solutions can be recommendations that flow from Local Unions, Unifor committees and community projects with partners that Unifor supports or organizes.

7. **CCPA**

I recommend that the Unifor Ontario Council contribute \$5000 annually to the Ontario CCPA office, matching the National Union contribution and ensuring ongoing research and public education on issues of importance to Ontario.

8. **Collective Bargaining Support**

I recommend that Unifor Ontario Local Unions actively support and show solidarity with Unifor members in bargaining in 2014 by reaching out to other Unifor locals in their communities and informing members of progress, problems and results. Unifor Ontario Locals are urged to respond quickly and generously to appeals for support from the National Union.

Unifor Ontario will ensure that information on major bargaining that affect whole industries such as health care and pulp and paper bargaining, including requests for support and solidarity, are circulated. Major bargaining issues are also regularly reported on in “UniForum” – our on-line newsletter and Local Unions are encouraged to ensure that all Local Union Executive members and stewards subscribe to UniForum.

9. **Rail Campaign**

I recommend that Ontario locals actively support the Passenger Rail Campaign, “Getting on Board or Running off the Rails”. The Passenger Rail campaign is explained with links to research, fact sheets and resources, including petitions at: <http://www.unifor.org/en/take-action/campaigns/passenger-rail-canada>

Specifically, I urge Local Unions to propose a motion to municipal councils to call on the Federal Government for investments in passenger rail and to act to maintain service on threatened routes between Sault Ste Marie and Hearst Ontario operated by CN Rail, and in Atlantic Canada between Bathurst and Miramichi NB.

The campaign also includes a postcard for members and supporters to sign and return to the campaign.

10. **Rights at Work Campaign**

I recommend that Unifor Ontario Locals work in conjunction with the four provincial campaign coordinators to carry out the Rights at Work (RAW) Campaign workplace canvas by:

- a) Responding quickly to organize the workplace canvas by appointing of Local Union Canvas Coordinators, forwarding membership lists, mapping workplaces and assigning canvassers to speak with members.
- b) Securing a commitment from National Executive Board members, Ontario Regional Council Executive members, Local Union Executive Board members, stewards and activists for their personal involvement and leadership by example to carry out this priority campaign.
- c) Setting a goal of reaching the vast majority and hopefully all of our members.
- d) Ensuring progress reports, check up and problem solving during the campaign.
- e) Using the Rights at Work Campaign to not only raise awareness of the threat to trade union rights, but also to reengage the rank and file and transform our ability to communicate with our membership on an ongoing basis.