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The recent Unifor Young Workers Conference was the largest yet, with motivated young activists gathering in Port Elgin to share ideas and experiences.

Young workers show that action can make a difference

From across the country, 130 young workers came together in Port Elgin on July 8, 9 and 10 to strengthen their activist skills at the second Young Workers' Conference.

The weekend provided an opportunity to arm young workers, many attending their first union event, with tools and tips to take action and fight for a better, socially just world.

Representatives on the Young Workers Committee and Roxanne Dubois, an Organizing Representative and Liaison to the Young Workers Committee, planned the conference with the objective of inspiring and inciting activism in young workers.

"There is no reason to
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Armoured car rules needed

Following a recent robbery of armoured guards near the Mill Woods Town Centre in Southeast Edmonton, which resulted in the shooting death of one person, Unifor is urging the federal government to develop stronger industry safety and training laws to protect the public and prevent robberies.

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New research report says auto at risk with TPP

The Trans-Pacific Partnership, if ratified, would put the Canadian automotive industry at risk, undermining the competitiveness of Canada's assembly and small and medium-sized auto parts plants, a new study from the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives concludes.

"This report shows that the TPP poses enormous

risk to our very important auto industry, with virtually no upside," said Unifor National President Jerry Dias.

"We urge the federal government to read this report carefully. The message is clear, the TPP must not be ratified."

Queen's University professor and auto industry expert John Holmes, who

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Convention app available

The app for the 2016 Unifor Convention is now available in the Apple App Store, and is coming soon to BlackBerry World and Google Play.

The apps will help you follow the agenda, read biographies of the speakers and follow along with what's happening at the convention.

Unifor's second Convention is August 22 - 26 at Shaw Centre in Ottawa. Until then, watch this space for updates. Remember:

- Registration deadline is Friday, July 22.
- Industry Councils, caucus meetings and a new delegate orientation are Sunday, August 21.
- Resolutions and the agenda have been sent to locals via postal mail.
- Unifor will participate in Ottawa's PRIDE parade, Sunday, August 21, 1-3 p.m.

For details, go to unifor.org/events.



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Young Workers Support \$15 and Fairness



With many young people working at minimum wage, the issue resonated with delegates to the Young Workers Conference.

The closing panel of the Young Workers' Conference made the case for why young workers and unionized workers should take action to demand fairness for all workers and fight for a \$15 minimum wage.

Unifor Local 414 member Samantha Henry talked about how Unifor has already been involved in raising the wage floor.

In Ontario, Metro workers combined minimum wage demands in bargaining, which led to gains for workers. Stéphane Hudon of the FTQ also reviewed the Québec component of the campaign and ways to debunk myths put forward by businesses.

The Fight for \$15 and Fairness campaign calls for an increased minimum

wage, and other demands including: paid sick days, fair scheduling, and fairer rules to join unions.

The campaign is an important frontier for workers' rights affecting the lives of thousands of low-wage workers. Delegates closed the conference offering support for \$15 and fairness.

See also Page 4.

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"This robbery resulted in bullets being fired in a residential area," said Unifor Western Director Joie Warnock. "The current laws are simply not doing enough to keep armoured car workers and innocent by-standers safe."

Unifor, representing more than 2,000 armoured car guards across Canada, is calling on federal politicians to pass Bill C-285, a private member's bill from Peter Julian (Burnaby—New Westminster). It calls for comprehensive national safety and training standards for the armoured car industry, including regulation of crew sizes, vehicle specifications and safety equipment.

There have been 12 major



Unifor has held several rallies across Canada calling for stronger safety laws for armoured car workers.

armoured car robberies in the country since 2014, each a two-person crew. And many in public spaces and near residential areas.

Through its national campaign launched in 2013, Unifor has raised

concerns regarding the over-use of two-person (instead of three-person) crews, especially at night and during higher-risk runs.

For more information go to: unifor.org/safecargo

>> Continued from “Action can make a...” on page 1

wait until you are older or hold an elected position, start your involvement today to build Unifor today,” Dubois said.

Shane Wark, Assistant to the National President, was on hand to bring greetings to delegates. Wark stressed the importance of unity and working together as one big union from coast to coast to coast.

“We are a stronger and more effective union when we are working together, so make time to connect with delegates outside your area, and make a commitment to be active and keep our union strong.”

It was the largest young workers conference Unifor has held.

The opening night’s panel kicked off the conference with words of inspiration from three activists who have played an active role in building Unifor and the communities around them. The main message from the panelist was the power of education.

“The main tool in our tool box is to educate people. We need to show people how to fight back and this is how we can win,” said François Arsenault, Local 698, highlighting the need to open lines of communication.

The panel also included Samia Hashi, who recently helped to organize her own workplace at Bell.

Hashi reflected the sentiment of many delegates at the conference



Samia Hashi and Dharsan Rajasingham, delegates to the Young Workers Conference, helped organize their Bell workplace recently.

when she said, “I am just beginning my journey with Unifor and proud to be part of the union.”

A key message from all conference speakers was the need to keep fighting.

“Although at times, meeting our objectives and bringing about change can be a long task, we must always keep at it - action can make a difference!” Hashi said.

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co-authored The Devil is in the Details: The TPP’s Impact on the Canadian Automotive Industry with Jeffrey Carey, also from Queen’s, said the TPP will be a “game changer” for the auto industry worldwide.

“The proposed treaty will significantly affect decisions regarding what, where, and how automotive products will be produced within the wider TPP region, with Canada getting the short end of the stick.”

A critical side deal in the TPP, negotiated between the United States and Japan but applicable to all TPP countries, further reduces how much of a vehicle or automotive part needs to be produced within the TPP region for it to get

duty-free access under the agreement, the study released July 7 found.

That means vehicles assembled using parts made outside the TPP region, such as China, will benefit in North America without any reciprocal gains in Asia for North American auto firms.

Other concerns found in the report:

- growth in Canadian vehicle exports to markets outside North America will be limited at best;
- the large difference in tariff phase-out periods will favour locating new assembly investment and reinvestment in the U.S.;
- small and medium-sized Canadian parts makers will face increased competitive pressure.

To read the full report, go to unifor.org/tpp.

Unifor oilsands workers meet with Labour Minister

Members of Unifor Local 707A (Suncor) met with Alberta Labour Minister Christina Gray and Energy Minister Margret McCuag Boyd on July 7 to discuss challenges and opportunities for the province’s oil and gas sector.

In 2015 it was revealed that Suncor was attempting to shed good jobs at their Oilsands operations by purchasing automated heavy-duty trucks.

According to Fort McMurray Today, Suncor management boasted about plans to eliminate 800 full-time jobs at a conference in New York.

Unifor members outlined the dangers associated with

automation and emphasized the unspoken job creation mandate associated with the government subsidies given to the sector.

The 707A delegation also raised the options for more refining of raw bitumen within Alberta. The ministers were provided with a paper published in 2014 by Unifor and the Alberta Federation of Labour about the viability increasing Alberta’s refinery capacity.

“An automated truck won’t buy a meal at a local restaurant or volunteer with a local hockey team in Fort McMurray,” AFL President Gil McGowan told Fort McMurray Today.



IN THIS ISSUE Young workers show the power of activism at their largest conference yet. A new report from the CCPA paints a troubling picture about the TPP and auto. Robbery shows the need for tougher armoured car laws. Oilsands workers meet with the ministers of labour and energy.

Unifor backs Alberta NDP increase in minimum wage

In an opinion piece in this week's Edmonton Journal, Unifor National President Jerry Dias came out in support of an initiative by Alberta's NDP government to increase the minimum wage in the province to \$15 an hour.

"Rachel Notley's NDP should be congratulated for keeping a high-profile election promise to give Alberta's most vulnerable workers a raise," Dias said in the July 11 column.

"A \$15 per hour minimum wage is not only welcome news for workers, it is long overdue."

Dias noted that Notley has been clear and consistent in her party's

intention to raise the minimum wage since the election campaign last year, giving private sector more than a year to prepare.

The plan would see Alberta's minimum wage rise from \$11.20 per hour to \$12.20 in October, and to \$15 by 2018.

"We all remember when Ralph Klein stumbled into a homeless shelter in 2001, threw coins at the men and berated them to 'get a job.' But thanks to Klein-era economics, a full-time job is no guarantee for making ends meet in 2016. At current levels, the minimum wage is a poverty sentence," Dias said in the column.

More than 60 per cent of



Unifor has taken an active role in fighting for a higher minimum wage, including welcoming California activist Anggie Godoy to Canadian Council last year.

workers earning less than \$12 are women. Increasing the minimum wage helps to close a pay gap for women.

"The minimum wage increase will have a clear stimulus effect for the Alberta economy, namely

in increases to household spending. That is music to the ears of local business owners, the clear winners of boosted consumer spending," Dias said.

To read the column, go to edmontonjournal.com.