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uniforum



Chantel Hébert, Mary Agnes Welch and Lana Payne participating in the JournalismIS campaign launch.
Photo by Ignatius Lee

Campaign champions the benefits of journalism

Media Council opened recently with the launch of a campaign by Unifor and a coalition of professional associations, unions and media organizations. The advertising campaign will highlight the value and

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Auto plan needed

Unifor welcomed the recent announcement of a new committee to promote investment in the auto sector in Ontario, but stressed that while it is a step in the right direction, there is much more to do.

The Ontario and federal governments announced the creation of a new sub-committee of the Canadian Automotive Partnership

Council, to be chaired by Ray Tanguay, the retired chairman of Toyota Motor Manufacturing Canada Inc. to advise the governments on how to better help Ontario's auto sector.

"The creation of this CAPC sub-committee is an important step in the right direction. We look forward to hearing more from Mr. Tanguay and Ministers Moore and Duguid about concrete next steps toward an integrated investment program that is so desperately needed," said

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Coast guard cuts hurt safety

Communication outages for a 24-hour period last month at the Victoria Marine Communication and Traffic Services Centre underscores the threat to safety posed by federal coast guard cuts, says the union representing coast guard communication officers.

During outages, coast >>Continued on page3

#unifor

Here's a selection of tweets about @UniforTheUnion

@cherriprobinson

4 years ago today was a much different day for AC @unifor2002 members...then it was a strike today it is a tentative agreement!!

@CBlackst


Talks <http://www.fnwitness.ca> with #Unifor United Workers of Diversity. Take 2 minutes to register #2reconcile #canlab

In brief

Local 324, Acadia

Unifor Local 324 members at Acadia Broadcasting in Fort Frances, Ontario, voted unanimously in favour of ratifying a new collective agreement recently.

The four-year deal includes monetary gains and key language improvements.

The new contract increases employer pension contributions, improves language and provides a 7 per cent increase in employee pay over the term of the contract. 

Aboriginal and Workers of Colour gather

An impressive 140 delegates recently gathered at the Unifor Family Education Centre at a conference aimed at supporting the involvement and leadership of Aboriginal and Workers of Colour.


The group voted to accept “Aboriginal and Workers of Colour” as the name of their caucus and established the growth of their caucus and greater engagement of Aboriginal and Workers of Colour as priorities. 

Photo spotlight

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Delegates participating in the Aboriginal and Workers of Colour conference at the Unifor Family Education Centre in Port Elgin, ON

ESL teachers ratify after strike

English as a Second Language (ESL) teachers, members of Unifor Local 40, have ratified a collective agreement with Kaplan International after nearly four weeks on strike.

The agreement includes annual wage increases,

vacation enhancement and key improvements to language on job security.

“It takes time, effort and knowledge to be a great teacher,” said Josephine Petcher, Unifor staff representative.

“Our dedicated ESL

teachers care about their students, and were unwavering in their commitment to stand up for a fair contract that protects job security.”

The agreement was ratified with an overwhelming majority on June 4. 

Health care workers win wage increases

Members of Unifor Locals 229 and 1359 ratified a collective agreement with the Ontario Hospital Association, with a vote of more than 80% in favour of the agreement.

The agreement includes annual wage increases and benefit enhancements, in addition to other gains for a variety of hospital service, clerical and paramedical workers in northern hospitals.


“Health care workers do incredibly important work that touches all of our lives, at some point or another. They deserve to be

fairly compensated,” said Jerry Dias, Unifor National President.

Despite growing pressure on health care workers to accept concessions and wage freezes, Unifor’s bargaining committees and members have been determined to improve wages and benefits.

“The resolve of our health care members to protect their wages – and patient care – has been unwavering,” said Dias.

“Throughout Canada, our members are telling us that protecting health care funding is a priority,” added

Dias. “Unifor is fighting for adequate health care funding at the bargaining table, in our conversations with government and on the streets.” 



The Pulse newsletter provides national, provincial and regional information on the work of Unifor members in the health care sector. To subscribe to this newsletter and others please visit: <http://www.unifor.org/en/whats-new/subscribe>

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

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Jerry Dias, Unifor National President.

"We are encouraged that our provincial and federal governments are finally taking action on what experts in the auto industry, including Unifor, have been saying for years," said Dias. "Canada's auto sector will only thrive with political leadership and coordinated and strategic investment, but today's announcement can only be seen as the most preliminary of baby steps."

"Mr. Tanguay has a strong track record and great credibility across the global industry. He is an excellent choice," said Dias. "However, we are concerned that the federal and provincial governments

now need to ensure that Canada has the right tools to succeed."

Dias said political leadership is needed to seize on the opportunity presented by growing auto sales, renewed investment in some Canadian locations, 12,000 new auto jobs created since 2009 and a lower dollar. Unifor called for the new sub-committee to include representatives from labour and auto-parts.

Unifor's vision of a national auto strategy can be found at www.unifor.org.



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hurt safety"** on page 1

guard officers cannot respond to distress calls or provide ship traffic advisories.

The Victoria base is now responsible for most of the inside passage's radio traffic after the Vancouver communication base was closed on May 6.

"The Harper government is cutting corners with marine safety," said Joie Warnock, Unifor's Western Director. "Our coast guard is overburdened and that should worry anyone travelling or working on the water."

The Harper government's cuts to the marine safety network have impacted services on both coasts. Four bases have been closed so far this year

in Saint John, St. John's, Ucluelet, and Vancouver. Four more monitoring stations are scheduled to close in 2015 in Thunder Bay, Rivière au Renard, St. Anthony, and Comox.

"The Harper government is cutting back on services that protect people and wildlife on our coast," said Warnock. "The coast guard is essential to the safety of tens of thousands of British Columbians, but Stephen Harper doesn't understand that."

Restoring funding to the coast guard would cost \$5.5 million per year, or 0.25% of the cost to the government of the income-splitting program introduced in 2015.

Unifor is running a series of ads in BC to bring attention to these coast guard closures.

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champions..."** on page 1

benefits of professional journalism.

"A better informed public will come to better informed decisions, but more importantly, a well-informed public is one that will be more engaged - which is even more important than whether you think a decision is well informed or not," Toronto Star columnist and Unifor member Chantel Hébert said at a press conference to launch the campaign.

The June 12 launch of the JournalismIs campaign featured a presentation of the print, online and video ads. It was attended by more than 100 journalists, media employees,

and representatives of newspaper publishers and broadcasters. A website, journalismis.ca, has also been set up.

The campaign aims to rally the wider community of journalists and media workers, media corporations and media consumers to increase awareness, recognition and support for professional journalism.

"News is the lifeblood of our democracy. As the volume of information and the range of opinion available to media consumers increases, the contribution of professional journalism has become more important than ever," said Mary Agnes Welch, a reporter at the Winnipeg Free Press and Unifor member.

"Our campaign is

aimed at initiating a wider conversation about the value of journalism and what we all need to do to support a robust journalistic culture in Canadian society."

Campaign sponsors include professional associations, unions representing journalists and other employees in the media industry, educational institutions, media corporations and industry associations.

"The breadth of sponsorships and support highlights a unique characteristic of this campaign" said Lana Payne, Unifor Atlantic Director, columnist for The Telegram in St. John's Nfld, and MC for the campaign launch.

The JournalismIs campaign marks the first phase of a longer term



Zuliana Lainez, Secretary General of the Peruvian journalists' union.

effort to mobilize the media industry and the public to support professional journalism in Canada.

Media Council also included an address by Zuliana Lainez, secretary general of the Peruvian journalists' union, who is leading a project funded by the Unifor Social Justice Fund to strengthen the Mexican journalists' union.

In 89 per cent of cases in which a Mexican journalist is killed, no one is arrested or punished, she said.

Unifor supports pharmacare

Unifor believes that every Canadian should have access to good health care, including a comprehensive, universal, public pharmacare program.

Leaders from across Canada gathered June 8 in Toronto to speak on this issue in a roundtable discussion led by Dr. Eric Hoskins, Ontario’s Minister of Health and Long Term Care.

“We encourage these

leaders to find a way to make prescription medication accessible and affordable for all Canadians,” said Katha Fortier, Unifor Ontario Regional Director.

“Canada is the only developed nation in the world with a universal health care system that does not include universal coverage of prescription drugs and there is a way to fix that.” U

New members

Welcome to new members:

Marine Canada Acquisition Inc. (Seastar Solutions), Local 114, 295 members in Richmond BC.

London Automotive and Manufacturing Ltd, Local 27, 55 members in London, ON

FCA Canada Inc., Local 1285, 19 members in Brampton, ON

Alexandra Marine & General Hospital, Local 2458, 27 members in Goderich, ON

Cargojet Airway Ltd, Local 2002, 20 members in Halifax, NS

Expolits Valley Air Services Ltd., Local 2002, 53 members in Halifax NS and Gander NL

Bell Technical solutions Inc, 55 members in Mississauga, ON U

Kitimat municipal strike ends with deal

Members of Unifor Local 2300 voted to adopt a new collective agreement with significant economic gains. The vote ended a 14-week strike at the District of Kitimat.

“This agreement helps secure the respect that our members deserve,” said Joie Warnock, Unifor’s Western Director. “I would like to congratulate our members for their determination and commitment to achieving their bargaining goals.”

The 127 members of Unifor Local 2300 went on strike for more full-time

jobs to serve the community and to seek reasonable wage increases. The new collective agreement enshrines a minimum number of permanent staff that must be maintained, including replacing retiring workers.

Local 2300 also won annual increases commensurate with what was negotiated at Rio Tinto Alcan (2.5%, 2.5%, and 3%) and a \$3,500 signing bonus for full-time employees.

“We couldn’t have done it without the rock-solid



Members of Local 2301 celebrate the end of the strike.

support of the community and Unifor members from across the country,” said Martin McIlwraith, Local 2300 Business Agent. “The solidarity and patience shown by the people of Kitimat made the

difference.” Unifor Local 2301 members at Rio Tinto Alcan volunteered to increase their union dues by one hour per month to provide strike support to the municipal workers. U

Fair boosts local’s profile

Unifor Local 1106 at Grand River Hospital in Kitchener, Ontario, is participating in the hospital’s education fairs, representing Unifor, throughout the year.

The Local has sponsored a booth at the fairs, which will occur five times throughout the year, boosting Unifor’s profile in

the both the hospital and the community.

Chairperson Sandra Hillcoat said the local’s booth was the busiest by far, and attracted the attention of some of the other vendors.

“It is important for our members to know we are here to support their

professional development as well as answer any questions about our union. We are lucky to belong to a union that recognizes the importance of supporting our members. They were really proud we were there,” Hillcoat said.

“Our members need to know what our union does

for them and how to get help if needed,” said Vice Chairperson Erika Paling.

“We had a great response and feedback from all staff attending the fair,” added Chairperson Val Billedeau.

Local 1106 is looking forward to participating in upcoming fairs in the fall. U