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Unifor activists rallied in Toronto outside a town hall on the Trans-Pacific Partnership that included Unifor National President Jerry Dias outlining the union's concerns with the deal.

National TPP campaign ramps up

Unifor's campaign to stop ratification of the Trans-Pacific Partnership deal ramped up in Toronto on June 15 with a community rally and Town Hall that featured National President Jerry Dias.

Speaking to a crowded room, Dias called on the federal government to think boldly about trade to ensure Canada isn't put at risk.

"The federal government needs to have the chops to support fair and reciprocal trade that helps to build Canada and a sustainable future," said Dias.

Unifor is a supporter of trade because it is a development tool for the economy, said Dias. The problem with the TPP deal, however is, that it has almost no upside to our economy.

If ratified, the deal will grant extraordinary powers

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Atlantic activists engage on key issues

Unifor members from across the Atlantic Provinces met in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador for the annual Atlantic Regional Council.

The delegates work in a variety of industries and sectors including telecommunications, pulp

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Unifor welcomes CPP improvements

The expansion of the Canada Pension Plan (CPP) is welcome, despite falling short of Labour's goal to double CPP benefits.

"This CPP increase will help to provide security for hard-working Canadians when they retire," said Unifor National President Jerry Dias. "We would have preferred if the Finance Ministers had gone further,

but this is still a significant gain. Higher benefits will result in a tangible impact on the day-to-day quality of life for future retirees."

The Finance Ministers agreed to raise CPP benefits to replace 33 per cent of pre-retirement earnings up to a maximum amount of \$82,700.

The current CPP replaces 25 per cent of pre-

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Convention 2016 updates

Unifor holds its second Convention August 22 – 26 at Shaw Centre in Ottawa. Until then, watch this space for updates.

Here are a few announcements:

- Registration deadline is Friday, July 22.
- Industry Councils, caucus meetings and a new delegate orientation session will all be held on Sunday, August 21.
- Resolutions and the agenda have been sent to locals via postal mail. There will be a lot of work to be done at convention, so be sure to read through the materials sent to you before arriving - so you will be ready to get through it all.

Show your union pride in Ottawa's PRIDE parade. Take to the streets prior to convention on Sunday, August 21, 1-3 p.m. Allies are encouraged to attend. For details, go to unifor.org/convention2016.



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System failed Ornge helicopter crew

Unifor believes the crew members who perished in a fatal 2013 helicopter crash in Moosonee, Ont. were failed by Ornge.

A damning report by The Transport Safety Board of Canada found that the flight crew was not properly trained to fly in night-time conditions and that organizational, regulatory and oversight deficiencies led to the fatal crash.

Paramedics Chris Snowball, 38 and Dustin Dagenais, 34, both husbands and fathers, died alongside the pilots in the incident. They were members of Unifor Local 2002.

"We do not believe that safety was a priority for Ornge at the time of the crash, we do not believe safety is a priority now," said Chuck Telky, Unifor



Unifor Paramedics John Sloan, Mike Chad, Wayde Diamond, Chuck Telky and Dan Lefebvre with Unifor National Representative Kelly-Anne Orr and Unifor Director of Health Corey Vemey remember the fallen Ornge helicopter crew.

Unit Chair, Ornge Paramedics. "We do not believe cultural change, substantive change, is possible while the same management team that allowed these conditions to exist in 2013 remains today."

In its report, the Transport Safety Board of Canada determined Ornge training, standard operating

procedures, supervision and staffing in key safety/supervisory positions did not ensure that the crew was ready to conduct the challenging flight into an area of total darkness.

Three years after the fatal crash crews still do not have access to advanced safety training and equipment.

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and paper, fisheries, off-shore oil, dairy, shipbuilding, and health care.

With the change in government after last October's federal election and the provincial election in Newfoundland and Labrador in November, there were many discussions about the future of the region and what the new governments ought to be doing to protect workers, families and communities.

"I take my seat in Parliament and my role as an MP very seriously and I can tell you that there needs to be more talk of people, of families and communities and less about corporations and profits," said Tracey



Essex /Windsor NDP MP and Unifor Local 200 member Tracey Ramsey was a featured speaker at Atlantic Regional Council with Unifor National Representative Kellie Scanlan.

Ramsey, NDP MP in Windsor/Essex.

The Unifor Local 200 member and the NDP trade critic, spoke about how disastrous the Trans-Pacific Partnership will be for Canadians.

Resolutions passed on

supporting local fisheries in Newfoundland and Labrador, demanding a new federal Health Accord, closing the gender wage gap, a \$15 minimum wage, and supporting the involvement of young workers in the union.

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enabling corporations to challenge domestic laws and policies, and limit democratic decision-making in Canada.

Along with Dias, the Town Hall panel included Professor Michael Geist, Dan Schwanen from the C.D. Howe Institute and was hosted by the International Trade Minister Chrystia Freeland, who thanked Unifor for encouraging democracy and engaging in TPP consultations.

The Town Hall provided a forum for community members to offer their views. Based on speakers at the microphone, the minister was sent a resounding message against ratification of the TPP deal.

Coinciding with the Town Hall was a community festival and demonstration organized by Council of Canadians, Leadnow, Open Media, Unifor and others.

In a passionate speech Unifor Director of Telecommunications and Toronto Area Director, Naureen Rizvi, said to demonstrators, "A fair trade future starts by stopping the TPP, and stopping the TPP starts with our federal government. So let's keep the pressure on."

Unifor's National Executive Board has declared the TPP campaign a top priority and to help ramp it up 12 regional coordinators from within the membership were appointed to organize and build momentum.

The 12 coordinators



Unifor's actions on the TPP are stepping up over the summer, with coordinators across the country being trained to lead the effort..

will work with Locals across Canada to inform members about the TPP, lobby local MPs to vote against ratification, plan demonstrations and much more.

Local presidents should

expect to hear from the regional coordinator in the coming weeks about the campaign.

To learn more about Unifor's TPP campaign and action updates please go to unifor.org/tpp.

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retirement earnings up to a maximum of \$54,900. In light of the federal increase Ontario announced that it no longer needs to proceed with the Ontario Retirement Pension Plan (ORPP), scheduled to begin in 2018.

"The Ontario government deserves credit for making it clear they would go on their own if need be," said Unifor Ontario Regional Director Katha Fortier.

"I'm certain we would not have a deal today without the leverage provided by the ORPP. However, a stronger, universal, portable CPP is the best outcome for the majority of Canadians."

CPP expansion will be phased in over seven years starting in 2019. Critics wrongly claim

that employers cannot afford the increase in CPP contributions, fearing that businesses will close or reduce staff.

The same arguments were made in 1997 when then Finance Minister, Paul Martin, increased CPP contributions from 6.6 per cent to 9.9 per cent of earnings over 7 years.

However, during those years real GDP grew, investment rose, employment grew, and the unemployment rate fell from 9.1 per cent to 7.6 per cent.

"This is an investment by workers to provide themselves with a better future," said Unifor BC Area Director Gavin McGarrigle.

"Contributions made during our earning years will pay off down the road as future generations retire."

Unifor supports CRTC commitment to local TV

Unifor supports the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission's (CRTC) decision to entrench the value of local news as the civic responsibility of the large media companies (VIs) holding licenses for local TV.

"The Commission heard the message, loud and clear, that local media is vital for Canadians and Canadian communities," said Unifor National President Jerry Dias.

"Strong and independent local news is intrinsic to our democracy and it is the duty of large broadcasters to deliver it."

The CRTC decision to allow VIs to re-direct

existing financial support for community programming to local newscasts in large cities, or to similar community programming in smaller centres, is not an ideal solution to the financial crisis in local news, said Dias, but the measures deserve public support.

The CRTC's condition that VIs can't re-purpose these funds unless they commit to keeping their stations open is a major victory for many urban communities, and may save CTV2 stations in Halifax, Barrie, London and Ottawa.

"In light of this CRTC decision Unifor fully expects the VIs to keep those stations on air," said Dias.



IN THIS ISSUE Unifor continues to be active on the Trans-Pacific Partnership, participating in debates, rallies and appointing coordinators. Atlantic Council meets to discuss the future of the region. Concerns about an Ornge crash are confirmed in a recent report. TV ruling seeks to entrench the value of local news.

Pallister singles out workers with first labour attack

Manitoba's most vulnerable workers will have fewer rights if Bill 7 becomes law, says Unifor.

"Brian Pallister is a bully who picks on those who can't defend themselves," said Jerry Dias, Unifor's National President.

"Bill 7 was designed to keep Manitoba's most vulnerable workers poor and powerless."

The bill would make it more difficult for workers to join a union.

The new legislation, the first attack on labour by the Conservative Pallister government, makes changes to the union certification process, giving employers greater opportunities to

threaten workers before holding a vote.

Bill 7, the Labour Relations Amendment Act, eliminates workers' option to achieve union certification with signed union cards from 65 per cent of workers in a workplace.

"Employers already hold most of the power in non-union workplaces," said Joie Warnock, Unifor's Western Director. "It's clear already that Pallister is going to be a premier for the powerful."

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has said he would undo the Harper-era anti-union legislation now being embraced by Pallister.

In his weekly Huffington



Unifor National President Jerry Dias, seen here at a recent TPP Town Hall, says governments that pursue anti-labour bills soon find themselves increasingly isolated.

Post column, Dias said Unifor would work with other progressive groups in Manitoba to ensure the regressive new law is not passed, pointing out that past governments who have tried similar attacks have

gone down to defeat.

"The good news is that premiers such as Pallister are increasingly isolated as governments with a more sophisticated and inclusive approach grow their regional economies."