

I will vote!



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# uniforum



## Go vote, there's a lot at stake in this election

This is it, the moment progressive Canadians have been waiting for - the chance to finally vote out the Harper Government.

"This government has attacked everything that Canadians have long held dear - everything from health care, to pensions to the rights of working people," Unifor National President Jerry Dias said.

"October 19 is our chance to stop this government and its destructive agenda."

Unifor has played an active role in this election, backing incumbent NDP candidates, and candidates with the best shot at defeating the local Conservative candidate.

"We don't tell our members how to vote, but we do make sure they are aware of the issues and aware of how hurtful the Harper Government has

The future of healthcare in Canada will be determined in the October 19 election. The Harper Government wants to cut funding for healthcare. Vote to make sure that doesn't happen.

## Women's issues discussed

When federal party leaders failed to agree to an election debate on women's issues, organizers of the proposed debate, including Unifor, changed gears and found a new way to hold the leaders' feet to the fire.

The result was a series of filmed interviews with party leaders, led by long-time

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## Harper Government signs job killing TPP

Unifor denounced the Harper Conservatives for signing a Trans Pacific Partnership deal which will put an estimated 20,000 Canadian auto jobs at risk and hurt dairy processing, at a time when it is supposed to be a "caretaker" government.

The Harper Conservatives announced October 5 that a deal had been reached

among the 12 members countries of the Trans Pacific Partnership.

"This is a trade deal that will have a significant impact on Canada. It will replace the NAFTA, our most important trade relationship. And all the signs point to the TPP posing a major threat to good-paying jobs in Canada," Unifor National

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## Ratifications

### Local 2000, Times-Colonist

Unifor Local 2000 members at the Times-Colonist, Victoria's daily newspaper, have ratified a new four-year collective agreement that contains no concessions and modest wage increases after year one.

Severance payments are scheduled to increase to one week for every five months of service and the maximum payout increased to 45 weeks. Benefits, such as the footwear allowance and physiotherapy payments, were also improved.

The agreement is retroactive to the beginning of 2015 and expires January 1, 2019. Unifor represents press operators and compositors at the paper.



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## Unifor helps Palestinian truckers

Unifor Secretary-Treasurer Peter Kennedy was part of a recent delegation to Israel and Palestine to give support and assistance to Palestinian truck drivers who are often delayed for several hours at the Irtah crossing between Palestine and Israel due to the Israeli occupation.

"They could be held up for one hour, two hours, eight hours, only to be told to come back the next day," Kennedy said.

"It's all arbitrary," Kennedy, who visited the crossing as part of an International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) delegation last month, said the only shade at the crossing, where temperatures often reach into the mid-thirties Celsius, comes from a small cafeteria at the site that

Unifor helps to support.

While Israeli truckers can cross the border, Palestinian truckers cannot, and must wait to move their loads to trucks across the border crossing.

The cafeteria, which Unifor has supported through the Social Justice Fund since 2010, is meant to provide some comfort while they wait.

"It has a direct impact on their lives," said Kennedy, the only Canadian on the delegation. "It was very moving to see how much it meant to them."

Following the visit, Unifor and the ITF committed to expanding the cafeteria, which serves between 200 and 300 drivers each day.

As well, Unifor and the ITF will work with local unions



Cafeteria for Palestinian truckers.

to increase the amount of cargo shifted to Palestinian-driven trucks to 50 per cent (now at 30 per cent), and to organize a young workers delegation to the area

Kennedy noted that half the population in Palestine is under 25.

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Montreal journalist and feminist Francine Pelletier.

At a September 21 event, put together by 175 organizations, clips of the videos were presented, along with two panels of women commentators moderated by Maclean's journalist Laura Payton.

The first panel featured Central Toronto Community Health Centres Executive Director Angela Robertson, civic engagement advocate Alejandra Bravo and Aboriginal lawyer Katherine Hensel – as well as Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives researcher Kate McInturff, who critiqued the leaders interviews and took on a range of related topics such as poverty, affordable



Up for Debate was established because there had been no debate on women's issues since 1984.

housing, decent wages, racism, access to abortion services, child care, missing and murdered Aboriginal women, sexism and sexual harassment, particularly in the House of Commons.

The second media panel featured Huffington Post political reporter Althia

Raj and Toronto Star social justice reporter Laurie Monsebraaten, comparing party platforms and announcements.

For more information see: [upfordebate.ca/campaign-news](http://upfordebate.ca/campaign-news), and follow #UpforDebate or @UpforDebate.

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been," said Roland Kiehne, Unifor's Director of Member Mobilization and Political Action.

Kiehne encouraged Unifor members to vote in the advance polls over the Thanksgiving weekend. That way, you can be sure that no last-minute problem on October 19 will prevent your voice from being heard.

"Voting early also leaves you free to help get out the vote for your candidate on election day - and that's one of the most important roles you can play in an election," Kiehne said.

A pullout poster included with this week's newsletter provides all the information you need to cast your vote, voting times in each



Unifor has pushed the need for good jobs throughout the current election campaign, and has pointed out the Harper Government's dismal record on the issue.

time zone, advance poll information, and Elections Canada contact details to find any more information you might need.

Unifor has contributed to the debate throughout

this election, including identifying threats to the auto sector from the Trans Pacific Partnership negotiations.

As well, Unifor Economists Jim Stanford

and Jordan Brennan released a paper identifying Stephen Harper as the worst prime minister on economic management since the Second World War.

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President, Jerry Dias said.

Unifor expressed shock that the Harper Conservatives accepted a 5-year phase out of tariffs on imports of passenger vehicles given that reports indicate that the US cut a deal with Japan that allows for a phase out of their tariff over at least 20 years.

Few specific details of the TPP have been released. However, it is clear that there have been dramatic reductions in the content rules. Required vehicle content has been reduced to just 45 percent (compared with 62.5 percent at present under NAFTA). In parts, average content thresholds will be even lower (compared with 60 percent under NAFTA);

federal government documents have not yet released the full set of parts content rules.

"It is outrageous that the Harper Conservatives have signed a deal that would allow the majority of a car to be made in China, yet still come into Canada tariff-free," said Dias.

Unifor estimates that this deal represents the potential loss of as much as one-fifth of the value-added content of a typical vehicle - relocating not just out of North America, but right out of the TPP zone altogether.

Unifor has also expressed concern about other aspects of the TPP, including major concessions on dairy and poultry marketing boards.

For more information, go to [Unifor.org/auto](http://Unifor.org/auto).

## Poll shows strong public support for CRTC and CBC

A recent poll sponsored in part by Unifor found that Canadians trust the CRTC to protect local Canadian television.

"The current chair of the CRTC has adopted the Harper government's agenda as his own even though the Commission is supposed to be independent from political interference," Unifor National President Jerry Dias said.

"Will small market stations start fading to black next week? I don't know. If they do, voters will know who to blame, and it won't be some faceless bureaucrat in Ottawa."

Unifor represents workers at local TV stations

across Canada. CRTC decisions under the Harper Government have hurt local television.

The Nanos survey, sponsored by Unifor, Friends of Canadian Broadcasting and ACTRA, found 92 per cent agreed or somewhat agreed that "local TV news is valuable to me," while 85 per cent disagreed or somewhat disagreed with the statement: "I would not care if local news broadcasts on TV were no longer available to me."

The poll also showed strong support for the CBC, with 86 per cent saying they want their MP to vote for increasing or maintaining CBC funding.



**IN THIS ISSUE** Canadians go to the polls October 19 to pick a new federal government, so Uniforum is taking a look at election issues, from jobs and the TPP, to women's issues to TV. Be sure to vote - just check out this issue's pullout poster for all the information you need.

## Locked out OLG workers rally to send a message to premier

Locked out OLG workers - members of Unifor working at Sudbury Downs, Casino Brantford and Woodbine Racetrack - along with supporters, effectively shut down the Woodbine Racetrack in Toronto October 2, blocking all entrances to the popular gaming facility.

"We're here to send a strong message to Premier Kathleen Wynne and the OLG to get back to the table and negotiate with our members," said Bob Orr, Assistant to the Secretary-Treasurer of Unifor. "It can't be business as usual when you've locked out the very workers who make these sites profitable, refusing to

let them have a say in their retirement security."

As part of OLG's 'modernization plan', backed by the Wynne government, the retirement security of roughly 1,000 Unifor members is at risk. Under the plan, OLG workers are no longer eligible for their current pension plan, but the OLG refuses to negotiate terms of a new retirement plan and locked out its workers.

"Wynne claims to be a champion of retirement security, yet she and her government are turning a blind eye as their privatization scheme puts that very security at risk for OLG workers," said Orr.



Ontario Lottery and Gaming workers at three casinos have been locked out since September 19 in a dispute over pensions.

The workers were locked out September 19. An earlier rally was held on September 24.

"We're seeing a lot of support from the public and once they hear what's going on, most patrons are

turning around," said Joyce Boreman, locked out from OLG Casino Brantford.

"They hear the Premier talk about the importance of pensions, but then behind closed doors she's taking them away."