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unIFORum



Unifor members rallied in Sudbury recently outside a provincial long term care building to support ongoing health care contract talks and to voice their support for universal health care in Canada.

Wynne to speak at Jobs Summit

Unifor's Good Jobs Summit will feature an address from Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne next month.

"We're committed to ensuring that Ontario is North America's leader for talent, skills and training. Smart investments and strategic partnerships

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Unifor to push new NB Liberals

Unifor will push the newly elected Liberal government in New Brunswick to act on priority issues.

"The Liberals have said they are willing to work with the labour movement on key issues, including protecting and advancing workers' rights - but they have been very vague," said

Lana Payne, Unifor Atlantic Regional Director.

"Unifor will be working with the NB Federation of Labour to push the new government to take real action."

Prior to the election, the union released the results of a six-question survey and found that while there were some positive platform pledges, none of the parties went far enough in their commitments on key economic and social issues.

Unifor's report card on the New Brunswick election

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Move from two-tier welcome

A push by the United Auto Workers to end two-tier wages in American auto plants is a welcome move that should help Unifor improve wages and working conditions in the Canadian auto industry, Unifor National President Jerry Dias says.

"This is a positive step >>Continued on page3

#unifor

Here's a selection of tweets about @UniforTheUnion

@traceyram

@JerryPDias @UniforTheUnion knows #goodjobs are possible-Time to have the conversation @GoodJobsEmplois

@Unifor88Kim

Students, labour + business(oh my)!@jessmccormick, @hassan_yussuff + Elyse Allan on #GoodJobs panel! #cfsfce #canlab

In brief

Coles seeks NDP nod

Dave Coles, former Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union National President and long-time environmentalist, has thrown his name into the hat, seeking the NDP nomination in the newly-created Vancouver North Island - Powell River riding.

The nomination is expected in late November.

Dave Coles was National President of the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union, and in that position helped negotiate the merger with the Canadian Auto Workers to create Unifor. 

Rail talks open

Unifor has formally opened negotiations with the country's two largest rail companies, with National President Jerry Dias saying workers must share in the industry's growth.

"We will be looking to ensure our members share in the improvements that they had a part in creating," said Dias, who opened both sets of negotiations.

The rail talks began with CP Rail in Calgary on Sept. 18, followed the next day with CN Rail in Montreal.

Unifor represents more than 12,000 rail workers across Canada. 

Photo spotlight: Canadian Council

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PHOTO BY SHANNON DEVINE

Delegates debated and discussed many issues at Canadian Council.



PHOTO BY SHANNON DEVINE

Council was a chance to see old friends and celebrate Unifor's first year.



Vancouver bus drivers told emotional stories about assaults on the job. For more photos: [flickr.com/photos/uniforcanada](https://www.flickr.com/photos/uniforcanada)



Watch all the Canadian Council videos:
[YouTube.com/UniforCanada](https://www.YouTube.com/UniforCanada)

Unifor journalist honored

Unifor member and Toronto Star journalist Jim Rankin was honored recently by the Urban Alliance on Race Relations (UARR) for his ground-breaking work for the paper looking into police relations with visible minorities.

Rankin was quick to credit his co-workers for their work, and his paper for putting resources behind important social justice stories during a difficult time for the industry.

"It's a terrific honour, although it should be shared with the many

talented colleagues I have worked with over the years to produce a number of investigations and special projects," he said.

Rankin was one of two journalists to receive the Ashok Chandwani Media Award at the UARR's 39th Anniversary Awards Dinner on September 18 in Toronto.

Rankin was nominated for his body of work at the Star, including stories on carding and racial profiling.

Rankin is an eight-time nominee for the National Newspaper Award (NNA), Canada's highest journalism

honour. In 2002, he led a team of reporters, editors and researchers involved in a Michener Award-winning investigative series into race, policing and crime in Toronto. Rankin has won three NNAs and a Canadian Association of Journalists award with the Star.

A native of North Bay, ON, Rankin was also recently given a star on his hometown's Walk of Fame. He and his wife, Star reporter Michelle Shephard, have also volunteered their time travel to Africa to train reporters there. 

UNIFOR COMMUNICATIONS: SARAH BLACKSTOCK, SHANNON DEVINE, KATIE ARNUP, STUART LAIDLAW, IAN BOYKO, SHELLEY BURGOWNE, MARIE-ANDREE L'HEUREUX AND ANNE MARIE VINCENT

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 NB Liberals”** on page1

revealed party responses on issues that an advisory team of Unifor leaders thought were important to the province’s future and Unifor members: fracking, forestry, passenger rail, women’s reproductive rights, child care and labour rights.

“We are also very concerned about women’s lack of reproductive freedom in New Brunswick,” said Payne. “One of the new government’s first decisions must be to remove legislative restrictions on abortion.”

To read the complete Report Card, with responses from the Liberals, the NDP and the Progressive Conservatives, visit www.unifor.org. 

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**“Two-tier move
 welcome”** on page1

by the UAW to eliminate inequities on the shop floor,” Dias said. “It is time for auto workers on both sides of the border to share in the recovery of the industry, and I congratulate the UAW on taking this step.”

A one-day strike at a Lear Corp. plant in Indiana, which makes seats for Ford, ended when the company agreed to end two-tier wages, in which new hires are paid less than existing employees on a permanent basis.

“It sends the signal. The UAW is being very proactive and progressive,” Dias said.

Dias said the UAW’s move will take pressure off Unifor to bring two-tier to Canada, and sends a



Unifor is dedicated to helping young workers.

clear signal that it is time for workers to share in the industry’s recovery.

“This is about equality in the workforce,” said Dias. “Bank executives are doing

very well, the auto industry and its executives are doing incredibly well. So, why shouldn’t the workers, and that includes the auto parts sector, also do well?” 

Did you know?

Approximately one-third of all Canadians are considered “precariously” employed, and 20 per cent of jobs today are considered part-time – compared with 12 per cent in 1976.

As well, contract jobs have increased 80 per cent since 1997 – triple the rate of growth of permanent jobs.

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will encourage good, well-paying jobs. We will continue to invest in people because that’s our competitive edge and that’s what will grow our economy. Thank you to the organizers for assembling this impressive forum – I look forward to the discussion,” said Wynne.

The Good Jobs Summit will be hosted by Unifor, the Canadian Federation of Students, the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, Ryerson University, Ryerson’s Centre for Labour Management Relations and the Unifor-Sam Gindin Social Justice Chair at Ryerson.

It brings together

students, workers, government, employers, unions, policy makers, researchers and non-governmental organizations to discuss the economy and ways to create sustainable employment opportunities – particularly for young people.

The Summit takes place October 3-5 at the Mattamy Athletic Centre (formerly Maple Leaf Gardens), and is expected to attract more than 1,000 people. Wynne speaks Oct. 4

“Government has an essential role to play in putting the necessary programs and tools in place so that all parties can work to create good jobs – business, government and labour,” said Unifor National President Jerry Dias, who will also speak at the



summit.

“We’re thrilled that Premier Kathleen Wynne recognizes the importance of this project.”

Among the other speakers will be CNN commentator Van Jones; GE President and CEO Elyse Allan; Ryerson University President Sheldon Levy; former Mayor of Toronto David Miller; Unifor Economist Jim

Stanford; Globe and Mail columnist Preet Banerjee; Canadian Labour Congress President Hassan Yussuff and Canadian Federation of Students chairperson Jessica McCormick.

Ryerson will host a research symposium October 3 from 9 am to 12:30 pm.

For more information, or to register, go to goodjobssummit.ca 

National Executive Board

Jerry Dias - National President
Peter Kennedy - National Secretary-Treasurer
Michel Ouimet - Quebec Director
Lana Payne - Atlantic Director
Katha Fortier - Ontario Director
Joie Warnock - Western Director
Penny Fawcett - Atlantic Council Chair (Local 2289)
Dino Chiodo - Ontario Council Chair (Local 444)
Christy Best - Prairie Council Chair (Local 649)

Andrea MacBride - B.C. Council Chair (Local 2000)
Sophie Albert - Quebec Council Chair (Local 522)
Darlene McIvor - Aerospace Sector (Local 2215)
Chris Taylor - Auto Sector (Local 200)
Mark Mathewson - Energy Sector (Local 848)
Ken Hiatt - Transportation Sector (Local 100)
Jean-Pierre Lafond - Forestry Sector (Local 227)
Randy Kitt - Media Sector (Local 79-M)
Christine Connor - Retail Sector (Local 414)



National Executive Board (NEB) in Vancouver BC, unfortunately not all members were present for the photo

Marc Rousseau - Communications Sector (Local 6001)
Nancy MacMurphy - Health Care Sector (Local 302)
Earle McCurdy - Resource Sector (FFAW)

Cheryl Robinson - Service Sector (Local 2002)
Ruth Pryce - Racialized Workers (Local 1106)
David Cassidy - Skilled Trades (Local 444)
Len Hope - Retired Workers

Unifor calls for government action on Rana Plaza

More than 16 months have passed since 1,134 workers were killed and more than 2,500 were injured in the collapse of Rana Plaza, a garment factory in Bangladesh.

Unifor, along with 50 human rights and social justice organizations, has released an open letter calling on the Canadian government to publicly urge companies who source apparel from factories in

Bangladesh to contribute to a trust fund for the victims and their families.

To date, only half of the \$40 million needed to provide for families facing abject poverty has been raised and only one Canadian company, Loblaws, has contributed to the fund.

“The main thing we can do as individuals is to be more aware of the products we buy,” said Randy Kitt,



Unifor participated in the CLC's delegation to Bangladesh earlier this year.

President of Unifor Local 79M and a member of the union's delegation to Bangladesh. “Tell companies with your dollars and your choices that workers' rights

are not optional and that people have to come before profits.”

For more information and to take action, visit www.maquilasolidarity.org

Health and Safety conference tackles new approaches

Unifor's first biennial Health and Safety conference took place August 22-24 at the Unifor Family Education Centre in Port Elgin.

Nearly 150 worker compensation and health and safety representatives from across Canada participated in the meeting.

The theme for this year's conference - Partners

in Prevention, No Half-Measures - put the focus on shifting the balance of power in the workplace. An emphasis was put on making connections with fellow representatives in other parts of the country and giving attendees the tools to be better advocates.

Keynote speaker Todd Conklin from Los Alamos

Labs shared his work on human performance and debunking “behavior-based safety” (BBS).

According to Conklin, the BBS model blames the worker rather than responding to different variables in each workplace. He suggested that workplace accidents simply bring out the flaws in the

existing health and safety regime.

Participants responded well to the approaches presented by Conklin and a good dialogue followed his remarks.

The next national conference will take place in 2016, with several regional conferences taking place in 2015.