



'No stone unturned' to save Star jobs >> page 2
Also inside: Unifor donates \$50,000 to Oxfam-Canada >> page 4



VOLUME 1, NO.6

WWW.UNIFOR.ORG

NOVEMBER 28, 2013

uniforum



Unifor activists Barry Smith, Vivian Vongsasanoubane and Darlene Wilson are helping to organize workers at three Toyota assembly plants in Ontario.

Unifor at the table

From the free trade deal with Europe, to workers' rights, to pre-budget planning, Unifor has put itself at the table advising government on the best way forward.

"It is important that Unifor be out front, letting government know the priorities of ordinary

>> Continued on page 3

Unifor supports NUMSA

Unifor recently attended the launch of the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa's (NUMSA) new Research and Policy Institute in Johannesburg, South Africa, showing support for the union's efforts in the country.

"There is a lot that can be learned, and shared, between Unifor, our South

African sisters and brothers and metalworkers unions around the world," said Unifor researcher Angelo DiCaro, who represented Unifor at the event.

Much of the discussion at a three-day summit that accompanied the institute launch focused on managing the country's resource wealth and greater industrialization as a way to create good jobs and spur economic development.

"This is not unlike what we are grappling with here in Canada, albeit in very

>> Continued on page 3

Toyota workers call in

Making Toyota's contract workers full time employees will be a priority for Unifor when it unionizes the automaker, says Jerry Dias, Unifor National President.

Unifor took to the airwaves in a recent telephone town hall to hear directly from Toyota

>> Continued on page 3

#unifor

Here's a selection of tweets about @UniforTheUnion


@CLCOntario Incredible honour for the labour movement

@UniforTheUnion President @JerryPDias named as 3rd most powerful leader in Canada #canlab #cdnpoli


@esooze Attending CFU livestreaming AGM - @roxannedubois gives a presentation on @UniforTheUnion's community chapters. ow.ly/i/30Xd4

Ratifications

Local 594 Co-op Refinery

Unifor Local 594 has ratified a three-year deal with the Co-op Refinery Complex in Regina, with wage increases in every year. The 703 members accepted the deal by 82 per cent on November 14. Efforts by the company to change seniority and pension provisions were pushed back. 

Local 195, ADM

Members of Unifor Local 195 at ADM Agri-Industries in Windsor have voted 81 per cent in favour of a new four-year contract. The 79 workers will get a one per cent pay increases in each of the first three years and 1.5 per cent in the last year of the contract. Contract language was also improved. 

Locals 2009-AP and 444, Magna


Four contracts were recently ratified under the Framework of Fairness Agreement (FFA) with Magna that provide for lump sum payments in each of the four years of the contracts and a switch to employer-paid long term disability. The contracts cover workers at Qualtech Seating Systems, Mississauga Seating Systems, 2 Magna Windsor Modules and Integram. 

Photo spotlight

SUBMIT YOUR PHOTOS TO COMMUNICATIONS@UNIFOR.ORG



PHOTO BY BRIAN STEVENS

Members of Unifor Local 101R recently met at the Port Elgin Family Education Centre, for their tri-annual bylaw convention. More than 60 delegates and staff attended.

'No stone unturned' to save Star jobs

The Unifor local representing Toronto Star employees expressed shock and dismay over the company's decision to outsource its advertising department and other employees.


About 80 unionized employees are slated to lose their jobs.

"We had no indication

this was coming," said Paul Morse, president of Unifor Local 87-M, "It has hit our members very hard. Many were reduced to tears."

Morse is hopeful the union can work with the company to find an alternative to the layoff. "No stone will be left unturned in our efforts to save these jobs," Morse

said.

"We recognize that all newspapers are facing serious economic challenges, but it is beyond understanding to think that anyone else could do a better job in providing compelling media solutions to advertisers," said Elizabeth Marzari, Star unit chair. 

Featured campaign

Toyota Organizing


Unifor is signing Toyota workers in Cambridge and Woodstock, Ontario to union cards, an organizing drive geared to improving working conditions.

The union has heard loud and clear that workers need a greater say in issues such as wages, health and safety standards, pensions and the use of contract workers, to name a few, and this campaign is built around concerns that Toyota workers have brought to Unifor.



Unifor believes Toyota workers should share the company's good fortunes.

Check us out on Facebook: www.facebook.com/

[Unifor4Toyota](https://www.unifor.org/toyota) and at www.unifor.org/toyota 

UNIFOR COMMUNICATIONS: SHANNON DEVINE, KATIE ARNUP AND STUART LAIDLAW

>> Continued from
"Unifor supports
NUMSA"
on page 1

different domestic contexts," DiCaro said.

The research Institute will deliver policy briefs, analysis and other information to both the NUMSA leadership and its members. It also plans regular events to engage workers in crafting progressive development policies.

The summit included workers from around the world, including Mexico, Indonesia, Nigeria, France, Australia, the U.S. and others. DiCaro presented a paper on the impact of neoliberalism in Canada, outlining attacks on workers' rights and livelihoods and proposing alternative economic development initiatives to help repair the damage. **U**

>> Continued from
"Toyota workers call in"
on page 1

workers on how the union can help, and the status of contract workers was top of mind for many.

"We see the importance of making temporary workers full time and that is our priority in bargaining," Dias told one caller.

He cited how Unifor won full time work for temporary employees at CAMI Assembly in Ingersoll, a Unifor plant, during recent contract talks.

"It is a question of workplace fairness, our victory at CAMI sends a message to future workers at Toyota there is a better way to do things."

Unifor economist Jim Stanford agreed, saying a pay grid for all workers would also help those now



Terry Weymouth, Rob Lindsey, Stacey Baker and Scott Manning are helping with the Toyota organizing campaign.

working on contract.

"One of the major issues in bargaining a first contract is a pay grid, that is what pay will start at, when (raises) come and when you will earn full pay," he said. "We would look at the experience you have with contract workers and what we have done at other plants such as CAMI."

Nearly 600 workers participated.

Other issues included

how in-plant union officials are elected, union dues, getting time off the job for family, and the "grow in" to earn top salary.

"I would say that is a good response," said Angela Lee, project manager for Strategic Communications, the Toronto firm involved in the town hall.

"It's a good indication," of interest from the callers, she added. **U**

>> Continued from
"Unifor at the table"
on page 1

Canadians," Jerry Dias said of the recent flurry of submissions the union has made to government committees.

In one week alone earlier this month:

- Dias spoke to the Standing Committee on International Trade (CIIT) on the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) with Europe,
- Health, Safety and Environment director Sari Sairanen and Unifor Atlantic Regional Director Lana Payne spoke to the Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the

Status of Persons with Disabilities (HUMA) committee on Bill C4

- Economist Jim Stanford and assistant to the president Dave Moffat spoke in pre-budget consultations with the federal Standing Committee on Finance.

In all the presentations, the overall message was the same: the actions of the federal government must be in the direct best interests of ordinary Canadians.

"What about the rights of workers to decent jobs? What about the rights of citizens to democratic decision-making?" Dias asked at the CIIT hearings, where he raised concerns about the rights of companies to sue if governments pass laws that hurt their profits.

Dias also told the

committee that CETA could worsen Canada's trade imbalance with Europe and called for the full text of the deal to be released.

At HUMA, Sairanen and Payne said C4's provisions to weaken the rights of workers to report unsafe working conditions will put more people at risk, and called for such laws to be strengthened, not watered down.

Stanford and Moffat, meanwhile, said the federal government's next budget

should focus on job creation, and offered several suggestions for doing that.

Since its founding on Labour Day weekend, Unifor has made submissions to government on a number of issues, including minimum wages and local programming.

To see Unifor's submissions, go to <http://www.unifor.org/en/whats-new/briefs-statements/briefs-submissions> **U**

Keep getting Uniforum

If want to keep receiving the print version of the newsletter by mail, you need to let us know. Simply email the Unifor Communications department at communications@unifor.org, call 1-800-268-5763, ext 3771, or send us a note to Unifor Communications, 205 Placer Court, Toronto, ON M2H 3H9. Sign up for the email Uniforum at <http://www.unifor.org/en/whats-new/subscribe>.

Unifor donates \$50,000 to Oxfam-Canada

Unifor has donated \$50,000 to Oxfam-Canada Philippines Typhoon Emergency fund providing emergency assistance to those affected by Typhoon Haiyan.

"This tragedy in the Philippines is heartbreaking," said Unifor National President Jerry Dias. "It has deeply touched the lives of Canadians, particularly those who have family and friends back in the Philippines."

Unifor estimates that

the union represents thousands of members of Philippine origin in Toronto, Winnipeg, Montreal, Vancouver and other areas of the country. "Our members are deeply concerned by this terrible storm and its lasting implications," said Dias.


The union is also calling on its local unions and members to make a donation to the union's Social Justice Fund - Typhoon Haiyan Fund.

Contributions made by

individuals will be doubled by the federal Philippines crisis matching fund. We will work with our partners and the global trade union community on how to best to provide solidarity support.

Dias also raised the issue of climate change and Canada's recent disastrous record. "We cannot continue to ignore the role of climate change in so-called 'natural disasters.' It is not enough that as a country we provide aid

after the fact, as lives are destroyed and whole communities decimated."

The devastation in the Philippines has affected 9.5 million people, with more than 800,000 displaced, and a death toll that is still undetermined. As well, the thousands of people who had already been displaced by the recent earthquake and were living in temporary shelters are now once again fighting for survival. 

Local supports injured worker

Members of Unifor Local 598 showed their support for all working people - including the nonunionized - when they turned out recently to support an injured worker forced to count cars on the highway.

The worker, who has a work-related foot injury, was told that as his modified work, he must sit in a lawn chair along Highway 144 near Sudbury, Ontario in front of the non-union construction company where he works

and count the cars going by.

"The worker sits on the front lawn in a lawn chair, in the cold, all day and that is his assigned work," said Richard Paquin, Unifor national representative. "He was told that he cannot refuse or he would be terminated."

The man has asked that his name, and that of his employer, not be released, for fear of retribution.

On Nov 4, members of Unifor Local 598 and other




Members of Unifor Local 598 rallied around a non-unionized injured construction worker in their community.

unions went out to the highway to show support for the worker.

Even though he was normally expected to be there until 5pm each day, he had been sent home early

by the company before the demonstrators arrived.

"We were in contact with the gentleman that night and he couldn't believe what we did for him," Paquin said. 

Unifor calls for national moratorium on fracking

Unifor, Canada's largest energy union, is calling for a Canada-wide moratorium on all new oil and gas fracking. Already the provinces of Quebec and Newfoundland and Labrador have introduced moratoriums on fracking.

Nova Scotia has banned fracking while undertaking a review. Unifor is now pushing for a national moratorium.

Unifor is raising concerns about the safety

and environmental risks associated with fracking as well as the lack of informed consent by First Nations about fracking activities on traditional lands.

In the statement unanimously passed by the 25-person Unifor National Executive Board, the union expressed support for the non-violent protest efforts by First Nations to resist fracking activity on their lands. The Unifor National Executive Board is made up

of elected representatives from across the country and a variety of economic sectors, including energy.

"Unconventional gas fracking has the potential to have catastrophic effects on our environment and economy. The safety risks are also a major concern for our union," said Unifor National President Jerry Dias. "Just because we can carry out this activity does not mean we should. We must enact a national

moratorium on fracking activity."

Dias also noted that it would be folly for Canada to reorient our entire energy infrastructure around a short-term surge in an unsustainable energy supply.

To read the full statement, please visit: <http://www.unifor.org/en/whats-new/briefs-statements/statements/unifor-national-executive-board-resolution-fracking> 