



STAND UP FOR MEDICARE AND RIGHTS
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 ARMOURD CAR WORKERS
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UNIFORUM



Locked out JemPak workers, members of Unifor Local 132-O in Oakville, Ontario, were joined on the picket line May 29 by Unifor National President Jerry Dias and CLC President-elect Hassan Yussuff.

Hudak jobs plan deeply flawed: Stanford

Tim Hudak's strategy to create one million jobs vastly overestimates the number of jobs the plan would create, and relies on right to work legislation that Hudak has said he

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Resolute ratification sets stage

The first collective agreement between Unifor and Resolute Forest Products has been ratified by all locals covered by the contract.

The agreement, the first major contract negotiated by Unifor in the pulp and paper sector since Unifor was formed last year, was accepted by an overall vote of 86 per cent, and will set

the pattern for 8,000 workers represented by Unifor in the primary pulp and paper sector east of the Manitoba border.

"We did not agree to any economic concessions, and the issues of outside contracting and economic improvements were all key parts of this agreement," Mike Lambert Unifor National Representative said.

Renaud Gagné, Assistant to the Quebec Director, said this agreement was made possible because of the

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Paid Education Leave (PEL) spreading

A new collective agreement between Unifor Local 975 and Enbridge Gas Distribution extends Paid Education Leave to the 700 members of the local, making them part of a unique program in Canada's labour movement.

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#unifor

Here's a selection of tweets about @UniforTheUnion

@roxannedubois Organizing precarious workers: #Unifor's community approach, via @rabbleca rabble.ca/news/2014/06/o... #canlab @Unifaith2014

@PattyCBarrera Unifor working hard at the FCM and chatting with amazing community builders @UniforTheUnion #unifor #cdnpoli @nenshi

87-M, Ming Pao reach deal

Unionized newspaper staff at Ming Pao Daily in Toronto, who were on strike in 2012 for eight weeks for a first contract, have ratified their second collective agreement.

"We are very happy to re-negotiate a good union contract with this company without the need for a strike, litigation or even mediation," said union spokesperson Wesley Chua, a copy editor at the popular Chinese language daily.

The two-year deal covers about 130 editorial, advertising, production and administrative staff represented by Unifor Local 87-M.

"The company brought a very professional attitude to the bargaining table, and we reached an agreement that is fair to both the staff and the company," Chua said.

Ming Pao staff reached a first collective agreement in 2012 but only after an eight-week strike and the intervention of the Ontario Labour Relations Board, which imposed a union contract after negotiations failed.

The new contract includes cost of living wage raises, better severance pay, improvements for part-time employees, and no concessions. **U**

Photo spotlight

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CREDITS SHELLEY BURGOWNE

To catch up on Unifor's health conference, use #UniforHealth



CREDITS JOSH COLES

Unifor members at Caressant Care in Ontario rallied May 29.

Stand up for Medicare and rights

Ongoing threats to workplace rights and to Medicare itself brought 145 health care workers from Nova Scotia and Ontario to Halifax. Delegates gathered to discuss the issue and plan for the future.

Wendell Potter, who left a public relations career in US private health insurance, warned about

the harm private healthcare can do to patients in pursuit of massive profits.

"I had a crisis of conscience when I was in a private company jet with gold cutlery and a 17-year old patient was denied a liver transplant," said Wendell Potter. After that patient died, he knew he could no longer be part of the

problem.

Several speakers at the conference held May 23-25 said Canada's public system out-performs the American in nearly every way, including cost.

Panels discussed how certain federal policies could lead to privatization and drastic reductions in the quality of service in nearly every province. **U**

Come build our Pride float

Unifor is getting ready to shine at World Pride this year in Toronto, celebrating the contributions of lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people - in Canada and around the globe.

If you live near the Greater Toronto Area, join with LGBT Unifor members, allies, friends and family to build Unifor's first-ever pride float. Building has already started but there is still one date left: June 15, 11 am to 3 pm at Red Pepper Spectacle studio—160 Baldwin St, in Toronto's Kensington Market

Don't worry - no construction experience is



Volunteers are working from this scale model to build Unifor's first Pride float.

necessary!

For more information, please contact Kellie Scanlan at kscanlanca@yahoo.com or Billy O'Neill at billyoneill74@gmail.com.

World Pride is June 20-29, attracting activists and supporters from around the world. The annual Pride

Parade begins Sunday, June 29, at 1pm.

If you can't make it out for the build, be sure to come to a pride event in your area. For more information on other pride events, please visit: unifor.org/en/whats-new/event/pride-events-across-canada. **U**

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

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solidarity and determination of our bargaining committee.

"Our members sent us to bargaining to make progress and that was achieved," he said

In 2010, at the height of the economic crisis, workers made numerous concessions to maintain jobs and save their defined benefit pension plan.

"It is now time to concentrate on a national forestry sector policy to ensure continued prosperity for this important industry," Unifor National President Jerry Dias said.

Key to developing such a strategy is a commitment from the federal government to establish a national forestry sector council with participation from all stakeholders in the sector, Dias said. 

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won't implement, a new study by Unifor Economist Jim Stanford has found.

The Progressive Conservative party of Ontario leader hired US economist Benjamin Zycher, well-known for his love of right to work laws, to estimate job gains from the million-jobs plan. Zycher in turn relied on a Fraser Institute report measuring the supposed economic freedom of US states and Canadian provinces - which wrongly assumes there's a job boost from bringing in right to work legislation.


"Zycher is suggesting that if Ontario pursued fiscal, social, and labour market policies similar to

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"Paid Education Leave"
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"Paid Education Leave is a fantastic program, and I am very glad to be seeing it spread across our new union," said Unifor National President Jerry Dias.

Local 975 is the latest former Communications, Energy and Paperworkers union local to make the Paid Education Leave program (PEL) part of its contract since the formation of Unifor last year.


The recently ratified contract at Resolute Forest Products also included PEL for 2,000 workers at 11 locals.

PEL is a fund negotiated in collective bargaining with employers. It was first negotiated by the Canadian Auto Workers in 1977 at Rockwell International. 

those of places like Mississippi and Arkansas ... economic "freedom" would be enhanced, and Ontario's economy would become stronger," Stanford writes.

"Never mind that incomes, economic conditions, health, and other indicators are far superior in Ontario to those right-to-work jurisdictions."

Besides, Stanford argues, Hudak said in February that he would not pursue right to work legislation if he becomes premier - so either Hudak is still committed to the idea, or the analysis is even more deeply flawed.

The study was cited in a recent column by Jerry Dias in the Toronto Star <http://www.thestar.com/opinion/commentary> 



Paid Education Leave helps cover the costs for locals to send member to Port Elgin for union courses.

Navistar update

The Ontario Labour Relations Board (OLRB) has confirmed receipt of Unifor's unfair labour practice complaint against Navistar. The OLRB has appointed Labour Relations Officer, Fernando DaSilva as a Settlement Officer.

The company must file a written reply to the Unifor's complaint by June 4, 2014.

We will keep the website updated as developments occur. Visit: www.unifor.org/navistar for more information.

Energy Council formed

The first-ever meeting of the Unifor Energy Council took place on May 28 in Montreal.

Unifor National President Jerry Dias spoke to the group about the importance of the Energy Council to Unifor, as well as the importance of energy as the economic engine of the Canadian economy.

There were 110 delegates from 100 bargaining units at the meeting representing more than 14,000 Unifor members in the energy sector.

Energy Sector Director Brian Campbell reported on the need for more organizing in the energy sector and pattern bargaining.

He reported that there are several issues facing the industry, but that rail and pipeline transportation tend to grab the most headlines. Unifor is firmly against raw bitumen being transported out of the country for processing, costing thousands of jobs in Canada, said Campbell.

The elected executive is:

Angela Adams, Chair

Jim Galvin, Vice-Chair

Russ Day, Secretary-Treasurer

Members at Large:
Mike Kapelka
Sandy Boyd
Tom Kennedy
Mark Mathewson
Benoit Potvin 

Hudak wrong about trades college

Progressive Conservative Leader Tim Hudak cannot win the current Ontario election by misleading the public about the Ontario College of Trades, Unifor National President Jerry Dias says.

The majority of trades in Ontario are voluntary. Out of 156 trade classifications in Ontario, only 22 are compulsory. These tend to be jobs where safety


requires a skilled person to do the work – such as wiring a home for electricity, fixing a car or installing fire prevention sprinklers.

John Breslin, Unifor Skilled Trades Director said journeyperson to apprenticeship ratios are not a barrier for entry into the skilled trades. The unionized sector invests millions each year to

provide apprenticeship training in both the voluntary and compulsory trades, where the non-union sector invests nothing – and yet complains to Hudak that they cannot create any jobs because of ratios.

“Lowering ratios would allow employers to reduce their costs and the quality of workmanship by laying off 200,000 skilled

journeypersons and replacing them with low cost, lower-skilled apprentices, all at the expense of public safety,” Breslin said.

The college is funded by membership fees from the compulsory trades, meaning there is no cost to the taxpayer, unlike the previous structure when the provincial government handled skilled trade issues 

Minister responds to armoured car workers


A rally of nearly 50 armoured car workers and supporters in Levis, Quebec has helped achieve results in a year-long safety campaign.

The May 24 rally outside the constituency office of Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Steven Blaney has caught the attention of the minister, who shortly after the rally, committed to meet with the union over its concerns around the lack of safety standards in the armoured

car industry. A meeting is now set up between Blaney’s office and Unifor representatives for June 5. Previously, the minister had refused to meet with Unifor.

“When we get a call or a message, how do we make sure we don’t forget it? We write it down on a piece of paper,” explained Martin Lambert, Unifor Quebec City area director. “So we took that piece of paper and we chained it to the Minister’s door on Saturday to make sure that he and

his staff take these messages and return our calls.” Lambert organized dozens of Unifor members in Quebec to participate in the rally in solidarity with armoured car workers.

“Unifor has once again demonstrated that our mobilization and our solidarity can bring about change,” said André Desjardins, president of Unifor Local 4266. “We will now pursue our efforts with the Minister to make sure he understands our situation.” 



Martin Lambert and Andre Desjardins leave Minister Blaney a note he won't miss.

Newfoundland Premier backtracks on card certification

Atlantic Regional Director Lana Payne joined with Federation of Labour President Mary Shortall to meet with Newfoundland and Labrador Premier Tom Marshall on June 3 to voice opposition to Bill 22. The bill, introduced without any consultation with labour, reverses recent changes to the province’s labour laws, including the ability to unionize when 65 per cent of workers sign union cards.

Payne spearheaded the labour movement’s involvement in a four-year tripartite review of labour

relations legislation that led to the amendments in 2012.

“The government may want to dress this up as being about democracy and secret ballot votes, but really what they have done is made it tougher for workers to exercise their Charter right to join a union and given the green light to employers to continue to intimidate and interfere with that process,” said Payne.

She notes that it is laughable that a government would fall for employer groups’

arguments that this is about democracy for their employees. A union certification vote occurs in the workplace with representatives of the employer looking on while workers cast their ballots.

Employers also have ample opportunity to interfere and intimidate employees between the time an application is filed with the Labour Board and when the vote is held.

“The best situation in a workplace is for workers to have a collective voice so they can come together and bargain collectively to

improve their conditions of work democratically, and the government has just made it a lot tougher to do that,” said Payne.

“This government has given in to the same employer groups who argue against decent minimum wages, improvements to labour standards and for the use of cheap workers from foreign countries with few rights,” said the union leader.

Premier Marshall agreed to consider the arguments presented by the union leaders. 