



Support Bathium workers
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 Toronto transit
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uniforum



Strikers at Cascade stood up for future generations.

Cascade Aerospace members win wage increases, job security

After an 11-week strike at the Cascade Aerospace facility in Abbotsford, British Columbia, Unifor Local

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Good Jobs panel at Social Forum

The Good Jobs Summit made its official debut with a multi-generational panel on the state of work, and ideas to improve the jobs market on August 22 at the People's Social Forum in Ottawa.

The Good Jobs Summit takes place October 3-5 in Toronto, at Mattamy Athletic Centre (formerly

Maple Leaf Gardens), taking on issues such as youth underemployment, green jobs and how to create quality employment opportunities now and in the future.

Jessica McCormick, national chairperson of the Canadian Federation of Students, said students graduating with high debt are forced to take whatever low-paying precarious work they can get so they can start paying off their loans, because they can't afford to wait for a job in the field

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Bombardier offer rejected

Bombardier workers in Thunder Bay have stood up for good jobs in Ontario and a secure future for their community by soundly rejecting a last offer from the company in a vote supervised by the Ministry of Labour.

"These workers have shown incredible resolve and determination in their struggle to maintain good

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#unifor

Here's a selection of tweets about @UniforTheUnion

@UNIFOR79m

@JerryPDias says we need a national discussion on employment & #goodjobs in this country! unifor.org/en/blog/findin... #PSF14 #unifor #unifor79m

@joiewarnock

Spotted in the Burrard Street Skytrain station: #Unifor pride ads! pic.twitter.com/j3pzcLu35j

In brief

Local 229, Jefferies

Unifor Local 229 members at George Jefferies Children's Centre in Thunder Bay ratified a new contract with an important break-through provision – moving this group into the Healthcare of Ontario Pension Plan (HOOPP) – a large public sector multi-employer defined benefit pension plan.

George Jefferies is a paediatric outpatient health facility. Members include therapists, pathologists, assistants, technicians and social workers. 

Local 40N Farmers

After four final offers, workers at Nova Scotia's Farmers Dairy ratified a contract giving more than 2 per cent in annual wage increases and maintain benefits.

Negotiations proved challenging and involved weeks of intense bargaining and anti-labour actions by the company.

Farmers was purchased in 2013 by Agropur, a multi-billion dollar Quebec-based firm.

The last round of negotiations four years ago led to the workers being locked out. 

Photo spotlight

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Unifor activists from several sectors came out to the Montreal Pride Parade. PHOTO BY PIERRE DEMONTIGNY



In Ottawa, Unifor activists put on a colourful display at the city's Pride Parade. PHOTO BY MICHELLE ARRUDA

Support Bathium workers

The 75 members of Unifor Local 2011 have been on strike since April 29. Although most labour disputes revolve around monetary issues, the main

issue is the extremely difficult labour relations.

With their collective agreement up for renewal for the first time, the local's members are frustrated with the employer's lack of respect for the labour contract and opposition to all grievances.

Despite several conciliation meetings, talks

are at a standstill. Unifor is calling for a return to the bargaining table. Locals interested in supporting the Bathium workers can send a donation to Local 2011 at 65 Rougemont Street, Longueuil (Québec) J4J 2B4.

The plant makes batteries for electric vehicles. 

Shelter contract reached after four years

Workers at local 4606 unanimously recently ratified a new contract after four years in limbo. The new agreement brings them an 8.5 per cent raise, effective immediately, along with two additional vacation days.

National Representative Dean Tupper was thrilled to see these workers get the increase they deserved.

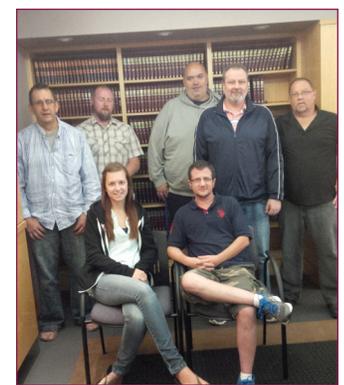
"These folks work so hard to make our community brighter and to really help those who are going through tough times," said Tupper. "So it's great when

our union can step up to the plate and help the helpers."

Every year, Shelter Nova Scotia provides more than 44,000 people a safe place to sleep when they have nowhere else to go and the workers ensure that they are welcomed warmly and without judgement.

The shelter has two locations serving men and women and aims to assist people in transitioning out of shelter life into the community.

Members look forward to the union working with the



Shelter Nova Scotia workers spent four years without a contract.

Department of Community Services and management to increase funding for their much-needed programs and facilities. 

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

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they've trained for.

"If retail jobs are actually the new [skilled] trades, let's make them good jobs," said McCormick.

Francois Arsenault, chairperson of the Unifor Quebec youth committee, pushed for stronger intergenerational solidarity.

Roxanne Dubois, Unifor community chapters co-ordinator, explained the role community chapter structure can play in young workers coming together.

Dias said government and industry have tried to lower our collective expectations of what is possible.

"Good Jobs are a choice - as a society, we can choose to build them," said Dias.

For more information:
www.goodjobssummit.ca 

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rejected"** on page 1

jobs for today and for future generations," Unifor National President Jerry Dias said. "These results send a clear message to Bombardier that the membership supports its bargaining team."

Members of Unifor Local 1075, on strike since July 14 in the face of company demands for concessions that would have hit all workers and retirees enrolled in the company's benefit plan, rejected the company's last offer by 80 per cent in an August 26 vote ordered by Ministry of Labour.

The current defined benefit pension plan would have been denied to new hires, and 500 members at the plant would have been



Bombardier workers rallied the day before the vote.

denied retirement benefits.

Dias called on Bombardier to return to the bargaining table.

"Bombardier has tried to

divide us, but all it has done is to make us stronger," said Local 1075 President Dominic Pasqualino.

See also, Page 4. 

Canadian Council edition

The next issue of Uniforum will be delayed a to Sept. 15, to provide full coverage of Canadian Council, taking place in Vancouver from Sept. 13 to 15. Watch for stories on the speakers (including several guest speakers), elections, discussions, resolutions and industry councils.

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members win wage..."**
on page 1

114 members have ratified a settlement offer that includes significant wage increases and a written commitment to maintain Abbotsford as the primary heavy maintenance facility for RCAF C-130 aircraft.

"This strike was always about keeping good, stable jobs in Abbotsford, and our members achieved that," said Jerry Dias, Unifor National President.

"I'm very proud of our members' commitment to defending good jobs now, and for the future."

The dispute was the longest labour stoppage in BC's aerospace sector, and likely the result of the new owner—Halifax-based IMP

Group—trying to establish a lower standard for its other aerospace facilities across the country.

"By sticking together, our members in Abbotsford showed a lot of courage and leadership. They showed that workers can make gains and reject the tired old refrain that 'good jobs are a thing of the past'," said Nate Shier, Unifor Local 114 Plant Chair at Cascade.

Unifor represents 440 aircraft maintenance engineers (AMEs), interior technicians, painters, stores, maintenance, planning clerks, sheet metal mechanics and other workers at the Abbotsford facility.

The plant was back to operation on August 25. 

JCI workers ratify contract saving plant

Unifor members at auto parts maker Johnson Controls Inc. (JCI) in Whitby ratified a new contract at the plant once marked for closure - accepting a deal that not only keeps the facility open, but gives them a \$1,500 signing bonus.

"This deal shows what can happen when workers stand together and think creatively about keeping good jobs in their community," Unifor National President Jerry Dias said.

In a rousing speech to the United Auto Workers

convention in June, Dias said the announced closure of the Whitby facility would be a strike issue. A strike at JCI would have shut down assembly operations at General Motors in Oshawa. GM Oshawa relies on JCI for interiors and seats on several of its vehicles.

Shortly after Dias's comments, Unifor, GM and JCI began discussions that led to the Whitby plant remaining open and JCI continuing to supply components for GM.

In addition, the three-year deal maintains current wages and gives each of the approximately 300 workers, members of Unifor Local 222, a \$1,500 signing bonus. JCI had been demanding wage rollbacks. The number of job categories in the contract has been reduced. 

We are the proud producers of TTC vehicles

Unifor Local 1075 President Dominic Pasqualino spoke to the Toronto Transit Commission board on August 19. Here is an edited transcript of his address:

Members of the Toronto Transit Commission, thank you for this opportunity to speak to you today on behalf of the unionized workers at Thunder Bay's Bombardier Plant. We are the proud producers of world class transit vehicles for the TTC.

My name is Dominic Pasqualino. I am the president of Unifor Local 1075 at Bombardier in Thunder Bay.

I began producing transit vehicles in 1976. With me are my co-workers - Randy Monteith first started at the plant in 1979, and is currently classified as an Electronic Tech working in Quality Assurance and Al Timko is a Finisher at the Plant and started in 2002.

We are also joined by Bob Orr, Assistant to Unifor President Jerry Dias, responsible for the Transportation sector.

Randy, Al and I have worked on at least a dozen different transit car models over the years for the TTC as well as other companies in the US and Mexico.

We currently produce vehicles almost exclusively for the GTA's transit system: light rail vehicles, rocket subway cars, streetcars, and bi-level trains for GO Transit.

Last week, a group of us had a chance to come down to Toronto. We met some of your riders, and talked

to them about the issues in this strike. We also had a chance to ride some of the cars we built.

I have to tell you, it was a proud experience. To see the people of Toronto, your riders, enjoying the vehicles we had built, it was truly wonderful.

The skilled and dedicated members of Unifor Local 1075 take great pride in our work.

It is our attention to detail that ensures that every bolt and weld is perfect which, in turn, enhances the safety of the vehicle for the operators and for the more than 500 million customers' journeys each year.

Our pride in our work means that we carefully inspect and point out flaws in the increasing number of imported parts we are tasked to install. We are dedicated to ensuring quality standards are met during all aspects of the production process.

Since the strike began, Bombardier has continued operation by having management build the vehicles - many of whom have limited or no practical production experience, especially on the current fleet of cars.

This causes us great concern about the quality, reliability and safety of these vehicles.

With so many inexperienced people producing the vehicles, does the TTC have the confidence that they are being produced with the same workmanship?

Can the TTC assure the public that the vehicles will



Local 1075 President Dominic Pasqualino met Toronto mayoral candidate Olivia Chow while at the TTC.

operate in the same manner and with the same record of performance, reliability and safety as in the past?

There are many critical inspections that take place during the production process.

Trained workers with decades of experience are best suited to perform these inspections. This is especially critical when new models are being built, as there are always flaws to be worked out.

Ladies and gentlemen, the TTC displayed great leadership in having its trains built in Ontario, providing good jobs for your fellow Ontarians and helping my hometown of Thunder Bay.

For that, I thank you.

The contracts were awarded to a unionized facility.

The employer was well aware of the terms of the contract and the costs to produce the various vehicles.

Yet today, they attempt to increase profits at the expense of workers.

The month-long strike

at Thunder Bay has had a major economic impact on the town of Thunder Bay as Bombardier is the largest private sector employer.

It has also had an impact on the delivery times promised by the company. Some vehicles may have left the plant but they are most likely in need of hundreds of modifications and with each day the strike goes on there will be further delays in future product deliveries.

- We are here to ask you to remain committed to the TTC's original contract by having these cars built in Ontario by unionized workers, to create good jobs and to help Ontario prosper.

- We are asking you to tell Bombardier you will not accept any cars completed during the strike. We are also strongly urge you to request that experienced Thunder Bay workers conduct a complete and thorough investigation of any cars worked on during the strike.

On behalf of our 900 members and our families, I want to thank you for your time. 