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uniforum

Canadian Council Edition



Angie Godoy, who inspired delegates to Canadian Council, also met with the Aboriginal and Workers of Colour Caucus, as well as with Metro grocery workers and the Young Workers Caucus during her visit.

Canadian Council delegates energized

Unifor's second Canadian Council filled the main hall at the beautiful Palais des Congrès in Montreal with designs to build better jobs and better communities.

The energy of the nearly 1,200 delegates and staff

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Delegates support TRC commission

Delegates to Canadian Council unanimously adopted a motion endorsing the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission into the legacy of residential schools.

Unifor National President Jerry Dias opened the session with a \$25,000 donation to the First

Nations Caring Society, which was accepted by the organization's executive director Cindy Blackstock.

"I have a simple definition of reconciliation," she said.

"It means not saying sorry twice. It means raising a generation of Aboriginal children who do not have to recover from their childhoods, and a generation of non-Aboriginal children who do not have to apologize for theirs."

Blackstock reviewed the federal government's

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Voting out the Tories top priority

"Are we ready?" asked Jerry Dias. The resounding answer from delegates at the Canadian Council this weekend was "yes".

Discussion of voting out the Conservative government was at the top of everyone's mind in Montreal.

Progressive politics

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#uniforcc

Here's a selection of tweets about @UniforTheUnion

@cblackst

Thank you @UniforTheUnion for adopting the TRC recommendations and helping this generation of Aboriginal children!

@angie415

It's so great to be at #uniforcc and get so much love offline AND online. We will win! #fightfor15

In Brief

Uniforum's new look

Unifor's national newsletter, Uniforum, will soon be undergoing a few changes.

Instead of being mailed in envelopes, the paper edition of the newsletter will soon include a mailing label right on the newsletter.

To accommodate the mailing label, Uniforum will get a bit of a redesign that will include some longer stories and a cleaner look. We recently started adding pullout posters, and have more planned for the future.

Stay tuned, we're planning for even more changes soon. 

NS workers fight austerity

After 18 months of tensions and attacks on public sector workers and their unions, the Nova Scotia government laid down the next step in its curtailment of worker rights.

Finance Minister Randy Delorey called union leaders together to say there will be no money for public sector workers for the next five years and the province wants lengthy five-year collective agreements.

Atlantic Regional Director Lana Payne said Unifor will work with other union leaders and Unifor members to develop plans to move forward and save public services. 

Packed house for first Organizing Forum

Unifor's first-ever Organizing Forum attracted some 300 delegates and staff from across the country to Montreal, discussing strategies for organizing more workplaces and introducing Unifor's new All In campaign.

The two-day forum, held before Unifor's Canadian Council, began with a panel on some of Unifor's organizing success stories.

Unifor's new All In organizing campaign was unveiled at the forum, with tips on bringing non-unionized workers in Unifor workplaces into the union, and for engaging workers in other workplaces in our communities.

A tool kit handed out at the forum has tips on getting an organizing drive going, a mapping exercise for documenting which workers are already in the union, a sample survey, and more.



Casino Rama worker Anna Joudrey gets support from Unifor organizer Elaine White as she addresses the Organizing Forum in Montreal.

The tool kit, survey and other resources are available at uniform.org or from the National office.

Such work is vital to building a stronger country and a stronger democracy, keynote speaker Elaine Bernard, a lifelong union activist, told the Forum.

"Unions provide a counterbalance to the concentration of corporate wealth and power," she said.

Author and activist Jane McAlevey, who signed

copies of her new book *Raising Expectations (And Raising Hell)*, said unions are needed to build worker power and fight back.

"There's been a one-sided class war and we've been losing," she said.

McAlevey said the key to building unions is getting to know the communities in which the workers live, the sports clubs and churches they and their family belong to, and building relationships based on that. 

Free cab rides offered at Ottawa airport

Unifor Local 1688, representing Ottawa taxi drivers, offered free rides from the Ottawa Airport recently for the elderly and families with children, during a dispute with the airport authority over a jump in dispatch fees.

"This is not a dispute between us and the public. This dispute is between us and the airport authority, and the company," said Unifor National Representative Harry Ghadban.

"If we could, we'd still be picking up all passengers at the airport while we settle this matter."

Members of Local 1688, working for Coventry Connections and serving the airport, stopped paying their dispatch fees, but continued to pick up riders at the airport.

But the airport authority disabled transponders used to open gates to the airport, locking out any drivers who refused to pay the fee.

When the airport

authority rejected an offer from the local to continue picking up riders, the union decided to offer the free rides.

Ghadban said that while the union is negotiating with Coventry, the real dispute is with the airport authority, which is demanding a fivefold increase in the dispatch fees.

"The airport authority wants a huge amount of money, and the company agreed to that without talking to us first," he said. 

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

>> Continued from **“Canadian Council delegates energized...”** on page 1

was evident throughout the weekend as people spoke about the importance of the upcoming federal election.

“We talked about the challenges we face as a labour movement, but we also had so many moments where we celebrated our victories,” said Unifor National President Jerry Dias.

“We’ve had historic organizing successes and we’ve changed people’s lives through bargaining better agreements. Our next big challenge is to make sure we have a new Prime Minister on October 19!”

The two-and-a-half day council was marked by distinguished guest

speakers including Retired Lieutenant General Roméo Dallaire, UAW President Dennis Williams, Aboriginal children’s rights activist Dr. Cindy Blackstock, and \$15 minimum wage activist Anggie Godoy from Los Angeles.

“Before the minimum wage went up [to \$15], I wasn’t thinking about college because I couldn’t afford it, but at the end of this month, I’ll be a college student,” said Godoy. “We don’t want this money for luxuries, we need it to support ourselves.”

The role of women activists was highlighted with a panel on women in electoral politics. NDP Members of Parliament Ruth Ellen Brousseau and Peggy Nash, and Equal Voice Executive Director Nancy Peckford spoke about



Canadian Council delegates marched through the streets of Montreal.

the need for women to put themselves on the ballot.

“You may think you need more time or another course or more expertise, but I’m here to tell you that you don’t – you have what it takes right now,” Peckford said. “Too many women hesitate, but if you feel called to lead, go down that path.”

Bilan Arte of the Canadian Federation of

Students and Brigette DePape from the Council of Canadians spoke about the need for young people to vote, and be outspoken with friends and family about voting.

Delegates marched through the streets of Montreal to push for an end to the Harper Government, and in support of locked out Garda workers. **U**

>> Continued from **“Voting out the Tories”** on page 1

dominated the agenda at Canadian Council. Current NDP MPs Peggy Nash and Ruth Ellen Brousseau spoke about women in electoral politics, alongside Nancy Peckford, Executive Director of Equal Voice, a group dedicated to electing more women in Canada.

“When you’re engaged in the union, you can’t help but be involved in politics,” said Nash, noting the opportunities, training, and confidence that Unifor offers women.

“Encourage women to run,” said Nash. “And when she does, support her.”

“Politics is an extreme sport,” said Brousseau, who spoke about her experience

of getting elected and the challenges of being heard in the House of Commons.

“I hope that my experience will allow me to inspire others. My story is not different from others. I am the head of a single-parent family. Women have to take their rightful place in politics.”

Nancy Peckford spoke of women’s leadership within the labour movement and commended the union for its work on women’s issues. She also said that the underrepresentation of women in politics is a chronic problem. “We’re not there yet, we’re making incremental change.”

Unifor is asking members to make an “I will vote” pledge, and providing information on the Harper Government’s record.

Unifor economists Jim Stanford and Jordan Brennan compared Stephen Harper’s economic record to previous Prime Ministers.

“Harper has the worst economic record of any Prime Minister since the second World War,” said Stanford, who presented the findings to Council.

Roland Kiehne, Director of Membership Mobilization and Political Action, said Unifor is not telling members how to vote, but is ensuring they have the information they need to make a good choice.

Unifor Local 229 President Kari Jefford spoke about passionately about cuts to health care and veterans support.

“These are the issues that all Canadians should care about.” **U**

>> Continued from **“Delegates support ...”** on page 1

shameful record on failing Aboriginal Canadians in education, health care, and more.

Delegates spoke passionately to the motion and shared stories of personal impact of racism in their communities and in their own locals.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission developed 94 recommendations to tell the truth about the past and move towards a healthier future.

Recommendations included significant education system reforms and a public inquiry into missing and murdered Aboriginal women. **U**

Unifor has been working on many fronts in Quebec

Quebec Director Renaud Gagné reported on some of the ongoing issues facing Unifor in Quebec, including the difficult labour dispute at Delastek.

"We are dealing with an uncompromising employer who refuses to respect the union's jurisdiction. We need the support and solidarity of each and every one of you."

He went on to explain the many challenges facing Unifor members in Quebec, particularly with regard to pension plans. Two major files that resonated this year. After a five-year struggle, the union was able to restore the pension at White Birch. And a boycott of GE, Hotpoint and McClary appliances was launched after manufacturer

MABE cut the pension fund by 22 per cent and the group and life insurance plans eliminated.

Gagné also updated several other ongoing issues, including problems in the forestry sector on the Côte-Nord, where a battle is playing out between industry and the government on the price of wood fibre, which is

threatening jobs in this region.

On the Quebec political scene, public services have come under attack. Unifor Quebec has supported the anti-austerity campaign organized with the QFL.

He also bid a final farewell to the newly retired officers, Line Brisson, Joseph Gargiso and Michel Ouimet. 

Delegates vow to raise the floor for all workers

Canada Council delegates discussed the importance of raising the floor for all workers - both through legislative change to increase the minimum wage and through increased unionization.

Anggie Godoy from the Fight for \$15 campaign in Los Angeles wowed delegates with stories from the frontline of the fight to increase the minimum wage and improve the working conditions of precarious workers everywhere.

"We need more people to come out and fight for what's theirs; to fight for what's right," said Godoy.

As part of the Fight for \$15 campaign, Godoy and her coworkers held two strikes in the fall of 2014. Earlier this year, Godoy participated in a 15-day hunger strike to pressure Los Angeles city council to increase the minimum wage to \$15. On the 14th day, she got the mayor's support, and the minimum wage was raised to \$15 in June.

"Because of this wage increase I am able to go to college, something I never

thought could happen," said Godoy, who will study Political Science and Labour.

Godoy showed that workers have to make a difference through collective action, and the impact that work can have for workers.

"The challenge is to unite the workers at the bottom," said Montreal employment equity activist Hans Marotte. "They're the workers who keep this country functioning, but are constantly told that unemployment or their poverty status is their fault."

Marotte implored delegates to continue to put the pressure on governments to raise the floor for precarious workers.

"A good MP, working in isolation, can do nothing," said Marotte, NDP candidate for Saint-Jean. "Civil society, workers and unions must play an essential role in making these changes."

Delegates endorsed a recommendation on "raising the floor for low-wage and precarious workers" to push living wage initiatives across the country, prioritize



Local 468 President Jennifer Mestrovic is glad to see help for young workers.

collective bargaining around precarious work; lobby for stronger labour law around non-standard employment and prioritize low-wage sectors in organizing efforts.

"I'm excited to see our union ... standing up for workers who need the most support," said Local 468 President Jennifer Mestrovic. 

Buckley running for OFL

Unifor's Chris Buckley is running to be president of the Ontario Federation of Labour. His candidacy was unanimously endorsed by Ontario delegates to Canadian Council.

"This is about rebuilding the labour movement," he said. "We want to build a strong and inclusive movement where workers and their unions are all working towards a shared

vision - together." Buckley, past president of Local 222 in Oshawa, played a key role in founding of Unifor as a member of the proposal committee. Buckley currently serves as a Unifor national representative.

Unifor Ontario Regional Director Katha Fortier urged Ontario locals to ensure all their credentials to the OFL Convention in November are represented. 

Unifor Industry Councils- August 2015

1359,

Trustee: Shelly Smith, Local 2458,

Trustee: Jennifer Benoit, Local 2107,

Member at Large: Angela Downey, Local 4606

Member at Large: Jake Gibson, Local 8300,

Telecommunications Industry Council

- represents over 26,400 workers in the private sector of major telecommunications companies. Our membership consists of clericals, support staff, sales representatives, in house technicians and external work force.

President: Marc Rousseau, Local 6001,

Vice-President: Dave Kuntz, Local 1-S,

Secretary Treasurer: Steve Wanless, Local 27-C,

Recording Secretary: Sandy Brideau, Local 506,

Member at Large: Véronique Figliuzzi, Local 6000,

Member at large: Dana Anne-james, Local 6006,

Member at large: Sam Synders, Local 1996-O,

Aviation Industry Council

- represents nearly 11,900 members, including pilots, air traffic controllers, air traffic services, aircraft mechanics, airport authority workers, air paramedics, ground handling and customer service workers.

President: Cheryl Robinson Local 2002,

Vice- President: Doug Best Local 5454,

Secretary Treasurer: Steve Connolly, Local 2245.

Forestry Industry Council

- represents more than 22,100 members working in sawmills, OSB plants, panel board plants, pulp and paper mills, packaging, logging and silviculture.

President: Yves Guerette, Local 299,

Vice Chair: Ivan Vasko, Local 1133,

Secretary Treasurer: Monty Fudge, Local 64,

Member at Large: Bill Spence, Local 76,

Member at Large: Bob Hoffman, Local 39,

Member at Large: René Émond, Local 894,

Member at Large: John Kenny, Local 84,

Member at Large: Richard Martin, Local 2,

Rail Industry Council

-represents more than 9,200 workers, mostly at CN Rail, the VIA Rail passenger service and Canadian Pacific. Hundreds of members also work at Ontario Northland Railway.

Chairperson: Ken Hiatt, Local 100,

1st-Vice Chairperson: Andy Mitchell, Local 103,

2nd-Vice Chairperson: Nelson Gagne, Local 101-R,

Secretary Treasurer: Barry Kennedy, National Council 4000,

Fishery Industry Council

- represents about 7,800 fishery workers on East and the West coasts, on Lake Erie members working in fish plants and fishery operations in Quebec and Ontario.

President: Keith Sullivan, FFAW/Unifor,

Secretary-Treasurer : Mildred Skinner of FFAW/

Unifor, **Member at Large:** Eric Leukert of Local 2182

Auto Industry Council - represents 21,000 workers from General Motors Chrysler and Ford in auto assembly and engine assembly and machining and parts depots, casting facilities research and development, office and clerical workers, security and transportation.

Chairperson Chris Taylor Local 200,

Vice-Chair Mike Van Boekel Local 88,

Secretary Treasurer Leon Rideout Local 1285,

Trustee: Dave Thomas Local 707,

Trustee: Wendell Johnson Local 636,

Trustee: Dino Chiodo Local 444.

Aerospace Industry Council

- represents approximately 10,200 workers who develop and manufacture aircraft components for Bombardier, Boeing and other prominent OEMS in the sector. In addition to providing in service support for aircraft in the field, Unifor members build satellites and robotics for space exploration and have assisted in developing robotics for neuro surgery.

President: Merv Gray, Local 112,

Vice-President: Richard Gascon, Local 62,

2nd Vice-President: Nathan Shier, Local 114,

Afirmative Action Vice-President: Mary Ellen McIlmoyle, Local 673,

Secretary-Treasurer: Bill

Bell, Local 112

Energy Industry Council

- represents 11,800 members in nearly every province, from offshore platforms off Newfoundland's outer banks to Suncor in Alberta's oil sands; from energy crown corporations in Saskatchewan to private refineries across Canada.

President: Jim Galvin, Local 8833,

Vice-President: Kim Conway, Local 707A,

Secretary Treasurer: Russ Day, Local 601,

Member at Large: Tom Kennedy, Local 2121,

Member at large: Benoit Potvin, Local 2005,

Member at Large: Mark Mathewson, Local 848,

Member at Large: Sandy Boyd, Local 681,

Member at Large: Mike Kapalka, Local 21A,

The Mining, Metals and Minerals Industry Council

- represents approximately 9,900 workers in mining, smelting or milling (whether underground or on surface, hard rock, soft rock or open pits and preparation of the metals either through milling or smelting methods).

President: Bryan Glazer, Local 892,

Vice- President: M Pierre Deschene, Local 666.

Secretary-Treasurer: Bill Wark, Local 1959

Member at large: Scott Rogers, Local 598,

Member at large: Andy Toms, Local 306-O

Member at large: Sean O'Driscoll, Local 2301.

Unifor Industry Councils - August 2015

Under Article 11 of the Unifor Constitution, Industry Councils are formed when Locals in a defined economic sector come forward to form a council. The following councils have received, or are seeking, National Executive Board approval:

Independent Parts and Suppliers Industry Council

- represents approximately 18,000 workers making many different parts for the Detroit 3 as well as most overseas automotive makers. These parts go on the vehicles, most parts are made within stamping facilities, plastics, and mouldings. Besides general labourers there are also many different highly skilled trades members.

President: Gerry Farnham, Local 195,
Vice-President: Robin Dudley, Local 1917,
Interim Secretary-Treasurer: Scott Bateman, Local 222, **Recording Secretary:** Paula Carson, Local 1941.

Media Industry Council

- represents about 11,900 workers in the Broadcasting & Film, Newspapers & Digital News Publishing and Graphical & Printing sectors. Unifor members work as journalists, printers, advertising workers, newspaper carriers, camera operators, technicians, researchers, maintenance workers, on-air talent, stage and film crewmembers, production assistants, website developers, editors and publishers.

President: Randy Kitt, Local 79M,
Secretary/Treasurer: Rob Munro, Local 2000,
Member at Large Print: Paul Morse, Local

87M, Member at Large

Quebec: Stephane Daigneault, Local 145,
Member at Large Graphical: Alex Charles, Local 780G,
Member at Large Broadcast: Kristi Tapp, Local M1,
Member at Large Freelance: Jonathan Ahee, Local 700.

ETOP Industry Council

- represents more than 7,000 members out of 15 different locals representing education, technical, office and professional workers including engineers, designers, technicians, computer programmers, laboratory workers, special constables, call centre representatives, library workers, financial services, university workers and administrative support staff.

President: Matthew Root, Local 5555,
Vice President: Jodi Nesbitt, Local 240,
Secretary-Treasurer: Ian Craigmyle, Local 240,
Recording Secretary: Kim Sardella, Local 5555,
Sergeant-at-arms: Rita Reid, Local 2002,
Trustees: Brian Kelly, Local 3007
Trustees: Mary Ellen McIlmoyle, Local 673
Trustees: Mike Kirsh.

Road transportation and Speciality Vehicle Industry Council

- represents about 21,500 workers in a variety of sub-sectors, including long

and short-haul trucking, shipping, taxi services, couriers, public transit, school bus transit, secure logistics, armoured car, waste and recycling as well as warehousing and storage, among others. Our specialty vehicle sector manufactures buses, trucks rail car and other types of rail equipment, mining trucks, and trailers.

President: Debbie Montgomery, Local 4268,
1st Vice President: Ben Willims Local 333BC
2nd Vice President: Andre Desjardins, Local 4266
Secretary-Treasurer: Jim Connelly, Local 4050,
Recording Secretary: Darlene Wilson, Local 4304
Member at Large: Gordon McGrath, Local 114,
Member at Large: Wesley Gajda, Local 4000
Member at Large: David Cayer, Local 4266

Retail wholesale Industry Council

- represents approximately 20,200 workers in the service and food sector of the Union including but not limited to, grocery, drugstores, fast food and clothing outlets, dairies, bakeries, food processing, beverage and other light food manufacturing industries.

President: Charles Redden, Local 462,
Vice President: Gerry Lepage, Local 755,
Secretary-Treasurer: Carolyn Wrice, Local 597,
Recording Secretary:

Christine Connor, Local 414,
Member at Large: Jen Mestrovic, Local 468
Member at Large: Dwayne Gunness, Local 40,
Member at Large: Richard Ratchford, Local 596.

Hospitality and Gaming Industry Council

- represents more than 17,600 members working in hotels (front of house, room attendants, bartenders, servers, cooks and support staff), the gaming industry (including casinos, racetracks, and government gaming and lottery operations, and restaurants and cafes, theatre companies and recreation facilities.

President: Dave Reston, Local 504,
Vice-President: Jean Van Vliet, Local 3000,
Secretary-Treasurer: Dana Dunphy, Local 444.

Health Care Industry Council

- represents more than 29,100 workers in the health care sector across Canada, working in hospitals, long-term care, retirement homes and community service agencies.

President: Shawn Rouse, Local 1106,
1st Vice President: Jim Kennedy, Local 27,
2nd Vice President: Susan Gill, Local 4600,
Secretary-Treasurer: Lisa Tucker, Local 302,
Recording Secretary: Gloria Hendricks, Local 504
Trustee: Steve Olsen, Local