



Day of Mourning

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uniforum



Serpent River Chief Isadore Day speaks at a recent Unifor/CLC forum on Bill C51.

Budget fails Canadians

In a pre-election budget, Prime Minister Stephen Harper is attempting to distract Canadians from his failure to create good jobs and economic growth, says Unifor.

"The Harper Conservatives' budget is too little, too late," said Jerry Dias, Unifor National President. "Canadians

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Local Task Force launched

Hundreds of local presidents from across the country made their way to Port Elgin recently for the first Local Presidents' Conference.

"We know that in order to move forward and create the best possible union, we need to learn from each other," said Unifor National President Jerry Dias.

"We are a diverse national union and we will only get stronger through greater communication and mobilization of our members from coast to coast. The heart of that mobilization is the local."

The weekend was the kick-off for the Local Union Task Force, an initiative chaired by Ken Lewenza. Consultations and town hall meetings will be scheduled in regions across the country, with times, dates and formats determined

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Scrap Bill C51

Past struggles that shaped this country and made the world a better place, such as the Winnipeg General Strike, the anti-apartheid movement and First Nations' land rights would be deemed terrorism under the Harper government's proposed Bill C51, a forum looking into the bill was warned.

"This bill could capture legitimate protest

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#unifor

Here's a selection of tweets about @UniforTheUnion

@Unifor4000

Happy Vaisakhi to all our Indo-Canadian members and others who celebrate this important day & time of year. #Unifor pic.twitter.com/Ajc3NDm96C

@joiewarnock

Justice for TFWs and Canadian workers is the same fight, and a top priority at #NoLittleDreams2015 #canlab #Unifor

In brief

Local 2002, Morningstar

Members of Unifor Local 2002 working at Morningstar Air Express have ratified a new five-year collective agreement. Improvements include pension, benefit and vacation increases, overtime improvements, days off, increases to sick days and bereavement leave, uniform cleaning allowance and enhanced language on harassment, discrimination and bullying. Unifor represents 60 pilots in Vancouver, Winnipeg, Toronto and Montreal moving cargo across Canada for Federal Express Canada. 

Local 636, Woodstock General

Members of Unifor Local 636 working at Woodstock General Hospital have ratified a new collective agreement with pattern wage increases.

Salaries will rise 1.4 per cent in each of three years. Vacations were also improved, with a fifth week after 13 years of service. Shift premiums increase to \$1 an hour. As well there is an RPN classification adjustment of 70 cents an hour, bringing the end rate for RPNs to \$29.08 on April 1, 2016. 

Photo spotlight

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PHOTO BY IAN BOYKO

The Energy Bargaining Conference opened April 21 in Edmonton with representatives of locals from across Canada.



PHOTO BY MARY ELLEN MCILMOYLE

Unifor Local 112 President Scott McIlmoyle gives Michael "Pinball" Clemons a lift at the Easter Seals Telethon, where Unifor volunteers worked the phones.

Member urges organ donation

Phil Goodwin, a member of Local 222 in Oshawa and an organ transplant recipient, took an active role in the recent Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Week in Canada.

Goodwin is a strong advocate for organ and tissue donation. He benefited from a kidney and pancreas transplant, and

previously spent four and a half years on dialysis where he described his quality of life as "hell on earth."

"With Organ and Tissue donation week, we're trying to bring awareness about the importance of registering to be an organ and tissue donor," said Goodwin.

"Every three days,

someone dies waiting on the organ transplant list," Goodwin explained.

"Many people think that they're registered, but may not be."

One donor can save up to eight lives. Register to be a donor at: <http://www.cantransplant.ca/home/organ-and-tissue-donation-consent>. 

April 28, National Day of Mourning

This is the 31st year of observing April 28 as the National Day of Mourning to remember and honor those workers who have died or who have been injured on the job.

For more than three decades, we have gathered in communities across Canada to direct the attention of our governments and employers to a common agenda focused on preventative measures that will reduce the suffering of workers and their families.

977 workers were killed by a workplace incident in 2012.

Another **245,365** had to stop working because of a **serious injury**.

April 28 - Day of Mourning
for workers injured or killed on the job.

**Mourn the Dead,
Fight for the Living**

Please mark April 28 this year in your calendar. 

TO FIND OUT ABOUT EVENTS IN YOUR LOCAL OR REGION, CONTACT YOUR LOCAL UNION

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

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won't be fooled by the pre-election goodies offered in today's budget - which will be of little or no help to Canadians struggling to keep up."

Rather than prioritizing the creation of good jobs, health care, retirement security and the massive infrastructure needs across the country, the federal budget confirmed that the Harper Conservatives are out of touch with the needs of working families.

"The measures announced in this pre-election budget to assist manufacturing, just won't get the job done," said Dias.

"More tax cuts are good news for people with lots of money, but they won't help working families." 

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by the local leadership. These meetings will help to determine what members in each local expect from their union and what they, in turn, can contribute.

"This was my first time to the great Family Education Centre in Port Elgin and my first time meeting many of my sister and brother presidents," said David Gates, President of Bell Aliant Local 2289.

"We shared so many of the same struggles, so it was good to know I wasn't alone. But there were also some really creative ideas and fun ways to engage the membership that I am definitely bringing home with me."

For more information about the Local Union Task



Local presidents exchanged ideas at their conference.

Force and planned events in your area, contact your local president. 

Did you know?

Unifor's 305,000 members are served by 796 union locals across Canada, and 3,195 bargaining units.

While the average Unifor local has 401 members, the largest local has more than 10,000 members.

About two-thirds of Unifor members belong to a local with 1,000 or more members, while two-thirds of Unifor's locals have less than 200 members.

More than 50 locals have 10 or fewer members.

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activities," including everyday activities of unions and social justice groups," warned Sukanya Pillay, executive director of the Canadian Civil Liberties Association.

In fact, the proposed new law is such a threat to freedom of speech, the Canadian labour movement and civil society, that it should simply be scrapped, participants in the April 16 forum hosted by Unifor National President Jerry Dias and Canadian Labour Congress President Hassan Yussuff heard.

The forum brought together labour leaders, legal experts, environmental activists and representatives of First

Nations and Muslim groups to discuss the mutual threat to freedom of expression and assembly that Bill C51 poses.

Dias said the forum was held to take discussion about the bill out of the halls of power in Ottawa and into the community, where civil society groups will see their legitimate activities to challenge the status quo made illegal by Bill C51.

"We are here today not just to listen and learn, but to engage with each other about how we should react to Bill C51 in this election year, and how more generally we can act together to answer the politics of fear," he said.

Paul Cavalluzzo, chief counsel to the inquiry into the rendition and torture



Thamina Jaferi urged forum participants to keep the debate about Bill C51 alive among Canadians.

of Maher Arar, said the bill ignores lessons from that inquiry.

"The Arar report was praised around the world," Cavalluzzo said.

"Unfortunately, the Canadian government refuses to draw from its wisdom to protect Canadian values and freedoms."

Because those standing up to protect the environment or workers' rights could be seen as threatening the economic interests of Canadian companies, Bill C51 brands

them as terrorists, the forum was warned.

"This country was founded on peace and friendship with First Nations people, and now we're being branded as terrorists," Serpent River Chief Isadore Day said.

Toronto lawyer and diversity consultant Thamina Jaferi called on participants to keep talking about Bill C51.

"We need to ensure that Canadians are aware of what is at stake," Jaferi said. 

New members

Welcome to new members:

Personal Communications Inc. cob as Eastlink TV Ontario, Local 37, 20 members in Sudbury, ON.

Swissport Local 2002 729 members in Toronto, ON.

Gateway Casinos & Entertainment Ltd Local 3000, 22 members in Burnaby, BC.

Great Canadian Coaches Inc.

Local 4304, 73 members in Kitchener, ON.

University of New Brunswick Employees Association, 330 members in Fredericton, NB.

Pepsi Bottling Group (Canada) Company, Local 1410, 160 members across Alberta.

Airport Terminal Services Canadian Company. Local 2002, 41 members in Calgary Alberta. 

New appointments

Area Directors

Myriam Germain, national representative, has been appointed the Montreal Area Director effective February 8.

Linda Macneil, national representative has been appointed Atlantic Area Director, effective immediately.

Finance

National Representative **Julie Poirier** has been named Assistant Director of Finance, working out of

the Ottawa Laurier Street Office, effective February 8.

Legal

Anthony Dale, Associate Director of the Legal Department, will now be the Director of the Legal Department, effective immediately.

Laura Johnson has been appointed Associate Counsel working in our legal department at the Toronto national office, effective May 24. 

PPWC and Unifor to bargain together

Unifor and the Pulp, Paper, and Woodworkers of Canada (PPWC) met in Vancouver this month to re-establish the Joint Pulp and Paper Caucus for the upcoming negotiations in 2017.

The two unions have agreed to work jointly in the next round of pulp and paper bargaining in Western Canada.

“Working together will help us better resolve issues

in an industry that has significant challenges,” said Scott Doherty, Assistant to the National President at Unifor.

PPWC and Unifor have been successful with pattern bargaining in maintaining common pension, wage, and benefit language in the collective agreements of both organizations. Under the Joint Pulp and Paper

Caucus, the unions are in a better position to face the growing challenges to the industry.

The two groups have bargained separately since 2002 but have agreed to work together in the future. The groups already work cooperatively on the Pulp and Paper Industry Pension Plan and the Pulp and Paper Safety Conference. 



New deal at Carmeuse ends 13 week strike

Workers at Carmeuse Lime in Beachville, Ontario have ratified a new collective agreement by 76 per cent, ending a difficult 13-week strike.

The new contract was approved at a membership meeting on April 18. The contract includes wage and pension increases, dramatically limits mandatory overtime and changes to hours of work, in addition to other

improvements, according to National Representative Fergo Berto.

“It was a long, hard and cold fight, but the support we received from other Unifor local unions and other unions in the area was incredible,” said Jody Slade, Unifor chairperson at Carmeuse. “Our members held strong for the future – without their support, we would not have been able to resolve many of the issues

that we did.”

Unifor Local 3264 President Rick Cecchin conveyed his appreciation to the locals and members across the country who donated to the strike, particularly the members of Unifor Local 88 in Ingersoll which lent their support in many ways.

“Without their help, the struggle would have been much harder.”

The strike began on

January 17. Their previous collective agreement expired March 31, 2014. “Our members are happy to be going back to work – it was a long winter,” Cecchin said.

Approximately 87 members work at Carmeuse extracting lime shore from the open-pit mine, which is turned into lime and used in a variety of consumer products. 