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Unifor had a strong presence at the Jobs, Justice and the Climate march ahead of the recent Climate Change Summit of the Americas.

Good jobs and climate change

Cleaning the environment and fighting climate change will help create good jobs in Canada, Unifor National President Jerry Dias told a Climate Summit of the Americas panel recently.

"Our long-run economic stability depends on building a sustainable

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Court dismisses Navistar challenge

A recent unanimous decision by the Divisional Court of Ontario puts former workers at a Navistar plant in Southwestern Ontario significantly closer to getting the pension money they are owed.

"This is an incredible

victory for Navistar workers and their families," said Unifor National President Jerry Dias. "Unifor will continue to provide the best representation to ensure these workers receive a fair and equitable settlement."

The court dismissed an appeal by Navistar of past Financial Services Tribunal rulings that there should be a broad group of workers participating in the windup of the pension plan, ruling that members of Unifor Locals 35 and 127 who left the company between

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Program opens doors for women in trades

On Friday, July 10 at the Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC), 19 women walked across the stage to complete their 14-week career exploration program in metal trades through Women Unlimited.

The program was

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#unifor

Here's a selection of tweets about @UniforTheUnion

@rankandfileca

Four #Ontario auto plants ranked in top 5 for quality production in North America <http://www.Ifpres.com/2015/07/12/assembly-plants-in-region-take-three-of-the-top-five-spots-in-prestigious-north-american-quality-survey...> #canlab #cdnpoli #onpoli #Unifor

In brief

Local 649, SaskPower

Unifor Local 649 members at SaskPower have ratified a two-year deal that secures wage increases and pension contributions. Language covering contracting out and bereavement leave has also been strengthened.

The bargaining committee also achieved increases to shift premiums, including those in a temporary training role. The agreement also includes new leave provisions for a serious illness of an immediate family member. 

Local 444, Dakota, Oakley

Unifor Local 444 members at two Windsor auto part suppliers ratified contracts in June that follow the pattern of wage and benefit increases set in an earlier contract with TRW Automotive.

Talks with Dakota Integrated Systems LLC continued past the strike deadline before reaching a new three year deal.

The deal with Oakley Sub Assembly will last until March 2016, when its contract at Chrysler ends. The deal includes provisions to extend past that date to ensure the pattern continues with the new supplier. 

Photo spotlight

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PHOTO BY ANDRE DESJARDINS

Locked out Unifor members at GardaWorld demonstrated in front of a TD Bank in Ottawa recently in an effort to press the company to get back to the bargaining table.



PHOTO BY AGATA MATYSZCZUK

Unifor activists turned out for Victoria Pride celebrations as smoke from forest fires cast a haze.

Metro grocery workers reach deal

Unifor local 414 reached a tentative agreement with Metro grocery stores, avoiding a work stoppage that could have begun within days. The unit includes roughly 4,000 workers at 28 stores across the GTA.

"We knew it was time for change, and that we needed to make dramatic changes to our working conditions,"

said Christine Connor, President of Unifor Local 414. "Our members sent a strong message to Metro that we were determined to get a better deal, and that message was heard loud and clear."

Retail is the largest and fastest growing sector in Canada's economy, but with the lowest wages, highest

turnover and fewest hours.

"Not only do we believe that all workers deserve a living wage, fair working conditions and a voice at work - we believe it is possible, and we are committed to make it happen," said Unifor National President Jerry Dias. Ratification meetings wrap up this week. 

Armoured crew right to refuse unsafe work

Unifor is applauding a recent ruling that a two-person armoured car crew was justified in refusing work due to working conditions that were unsafe for the workers and the general public.

"This is a very important ruling that backs up what Unifor has been saying. Two-person crews are unsafe for both the crew members, and for the public," Unifor Staff Representative Mike Armstrong said.

An Employment and Social Development Canada health and safety officer

issued a ruling on the case of two Brinks crew members, members of Unifor Local 4266, who refused work due to unsafe conditions at two Ottawa malls, saying the employees were justified in declining to service customers at the malls. Two similar cases in Sudbury and Peterborough will be heard in November.

With a two-person crew, one crew member walks through the malls alone to serve Brinks customers there, while the other stays behind with the vehicle.

"Cost cutting cannot come at the price of risking public safety," Armstrong said.

Industry statistics show that 70 per cent of armoured car robberies in the last 10 years have been against two-person crews.

Unifor has called for a task force into the armoured car industry to develop legislation to address a patchwork of out of date and ineffective regulations for the industry.

See also unifor.org/safecargo. 

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

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February 1, 2009 and July 28, 2011 should be in the windup group.

Production stopped in June 2009, with permanent closure announced in July 2011.

All such workers in the windup group aged 55 or older and with at least 10 years of credited service will be entitled to, at a minimum, a special early retirement benefit. As well, those with at least 55 points of combined age and service will be able to "grow into" a special early retirement benefit, and laid off or disabled workers should get a supplementary 0.9 year of credited service.

The decision means an estimated \$28 million for retirees from the plant. 

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developed through a partnership between NSCC, Irving Shipbuilding and other sponsors including Unifor.

"The goal of the program is to encourage women to enter the trades and to prepare them for the challenges and rewards of this career," said Koren Beaman, Chair of the Atlantic Regional Women's Committee, an Irving Shipyard worker and member of Unifor Local 1.

"I wish that I'd had this kind of support when I first walked into the shipyard years ago, so it means so much to me to be able to support these women."

The students are supported monetarily through the program, and



The Women United ceremony was a celebration for many families.

they gave back to the community with a cheque for local women's shelter Bryony House in the amount of \$2,015 that they fundraised.

Inspired by the commitment of these women, half of whom are single mothers, Unifor and the Canadian Welders Association each matched their donations for a total of \$6,045 for the shelter.

"Your success in this program is not just hopeful

to me, but this is what motivates me in the work I do - that Unifor does - every day," Unifor National President Jerry Dias said.

At the Unifor Skilled Trades Council held in Nova Scotia earlier in the year, the council selected the Women Unlimited program as the recipient of the annual Bob Chernecki Charity of Choice award of \$4,000.

To learn more: www.womenunlimitedns.ca 

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relationship with nature," Dias told a panel on Greening Transportation during the Summit.

"We need what nature provides: resources, space, land, air, and water. Especially in Canada, we understand the economic importance of our resources."

Daniel Hoornweg from the University of Ontario Institute of Technology moderated the panel, which also included Matt Rodriguez, Secretary from the California Environmental Protection Agency, Josipa Petrunic, Executive Director and Chief Executive of the Canadian Urban Transit Research & Innovation

Consortium and Patrick Nangle, President Chief Executive of Purolator Inc.

The Summit took place a few days after a massive Jobs, Justice and Climate march by unionists, including Unifor, environmentalists and activists through the streets of Toronto and featured speeches by actor and activist Jane Fonda and author Naomi Klein.

The rally attracted some 10,000 participants marching peacefully from the Ontario Legislature to a downtown park for speeches and live music.

The family-friendly event may have had a celebratory feel, but sent a clear message that Canadians want action on climate change along with job creation and justice for



Unifor National President Jerry Dias, actor and activist Jane Fonda and scientist and broadcaster David Suzuki attended the Jobs, Justice and Climate march.

those affected.

A similar rally was also held in Vancouver, showing cross-country support for action on climate change.

Dias told the panel that Unifor is involved in every aspect of transportation, from building cars, planes and public transportation vehicles, to operating those vehicles to producing and distributing the fuels they use. Because of that, he said, Unifor must be part

of any discussion about greening transportation.

"We are optimistic that with leadership, and a productive dialogue among all stakeholders including labour, we can make that transition in a way that strengthens the transportation economy, not weakens it," Dias said.

California Governor Jerry Brown and former US vice-president Al Gore also spoke at the summit. 

Good jobs restored

More than 100 good jobs have been created in Northern BC thanks to the reopening of the pulp mill in Chetwynd that closed in July 2012.

Paper Excellence Canada Holding Corporation (PE) purchased the mill from Tembec in 2014 and has been undertaking maintenance to restore operations.

"We're proud to have been a part of a process to

create good resource jobs," said Joie Warnock, Unifor Western Director. "BC's pulp industry has struggled because our export policy kills Canadian jobs, but hopefully this reopening can lead a trend in the industry."

Unifor was able to negotiate a new collective agreement with PE that approximates the industry pattern for wages and benefits. 

New appointments

National Assistants
Scott Doherty, Assistant to the President, has been appointed Executive Assistant to the National President.

Bob Orr, Assistant to the President, has been appointed Assistant to the Secretary-Treasurer.

Quebec Assistants
Sylvain Martin, Deputy Director has been appointed

Assistant to Quebec Director Renaud Gagné.

John Caluori, National Representative has been appointed Assistant to Quebec Director Renaud Gagné.

Organizing
Mark Armstrong, President of Local 468, has been appointed to the Organizing Department, working out of the Winnipeg office. 

Gaming members gather in Niagara Falls

Unifor's gaming sector members gathered for the first Gaming Summit on June 29 and 30. More than 60 participants attended the Summit, taking part in discussions on bargaining and organizing successes in the sector.

Unifor represents upwards of 8,700 members who work in gaming facilities and casinos across the country.

"There is a big potential

for good jobs in gaming, but the sector is in need of a plan that works for workers," said Katha Fortier, Unifor Ontario Region Director.

The Summit took place in Niagara Falls, where an organizing campaign is in early stages at the town's two major casinos. Community leaders brought greetings to the summit and stressed the importance of the gaming sector as



The Gaming Summit attracted many supporters.

a potential for good jobs across the province. Local politicians, MP Malcom Allen, MPP Wayne

Gates, MPP Cindy Forster, Mayor Wayne Redekop and Councilor Joyce Marocco were all present. 

Referendum threatens transit

Without quick action from the federal and provincial governments, transit service across the entire Metro Vancouver region will suffer as a result of voters' rejection of the Mayors' Council plan.

"Pressure is growing on our transportation and transit system," said Joie Warnock, Unifor's Western Director.

Unifor supported a proposal to increase

sales taxes to pay for improved transit.

That idea was rejected in a referendum.

"Unifor is committed to working with our coalition partners to find workable solutions for Metro Vancouver's looming transportation crisis, but that can't be done with a premier who has been invisible on this issue," said Warnock, adding action is needed from Ottawa. 

Young workers conference

Young workers and young people, more generally, can be game-changers in the upcoming federal election.

Poll after poll shows that the majority of the 18-35 years of age demographic vote for a party other than the Conservatives. The problem is that not enough young people vote. In the last federal election, nearly two out of every three youth did not vote.

Unifor is hosting the

Young Workers - We Will Vote Conference and Seminar to train workers 35 and under, giving them the skills and resources to reach out to their peers and encourage them to vote in the upcoming election.

The Conference and Seminar will be held at the Ryerson Student Centre on August 7-9, 2015. Local unions should contact Roxanne Dubois (Roxanne.dubois@unifor.org) to register. 