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Members of the Women's Caucus held during the Aboriginal and Workers of Colour Conference in Port Elgin.

Auto Council prioritizes new jobs investment

Meeting in advance of the start of bargaining with the Detroit Three auto companies this summer, delegates to the Unifor Auto Council voted unanimously to make new investments in Canada, including new product allocations, the top priority of the talks.

"When we get into bargaining, the number one priority will be maintaining and expanding the footprint of the industry in Canada," said Chris Taylor, Chair of the Auto Council and the President of Local 200 at the Ford engine plant in Windsor.

"That was the unanimous decision of our members here today."

The 120 delegates to the Council, representing the bargaining committees at General Motors, Ford and Fiat Chrysler Canada, passed unanimous

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Referendum on hospital cuts

Representatives from dozens of Ontario communities gathered at Queen's Park on May 31 to deliver 94,000 ballots cast in a public referendum to stop devastating hospital cuts. Referendum results showed 99.6 per cent of voters are against cuts.

Organized by the

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Members meet to build a more inclusive Unifor

Aboriginal and Workers of Colour came together at the beginning of June to discuss, share and strategize on how to redefine the true faces of our union. The conference, which is held annually, focused this year on advancing an action plan to build a more inclusive union at every level.

140 members came from across the country,

for two and a half days to unite for change. While the conference hosted guest speakers, including a representative from Black Lives Matter-Toronto, and an afternoon of educational workshops, emphasis was placed on building an activist network to strengthen Unifor.

The task presented to delegates, by several guest

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Convention is coming!

In just over two months delegates will meet in Ottawa on August 22 - 26.

To make sure you're prepared, a new convention app is being developed. The app will feature speaker information, session schedules, maps, and much more. Best of all it's free and accessible from all devices with an internet browser: smartphones, tablets, laptops, and even desktops.

Show your PRIDE

Join Unifor for Ottawa's PRIDE parade on Sunday, August 21, 1-3 p.m. Allies are encouraged to attend and show support for all lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender workers.



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IFJ stands up for journalists

Journalists from around the world gathered at the 29th Congress of the International Federation of Journalists to compare notes on the challenges facing their industry and improve journalists' safety around the world.

"International solidarity is essential if we are going to stand up for quality journalism and protect the rights of journalists to do their job," said Philippe Leruth of Belgium, elected president of the IFJ.

Unifor Staff Representative Stuart Laidlaw was elected to the IFJ's executive committee, representing North America.

There were several resolutions regarding the recent attacks on journalists worldwide. More than 450

journalists have been killed in Iraq since the US invasion, 17 so far this year in Yemen and 7 this year in Mexico.

"Mexico is a very dangerous place to be a journalist. This must stop," said Fernando Olivia Ortiz, President of the SNRP union in Mexico, where Unifor's Social Justice Fund is backing a project to improve the safety of journalists.

More than 2,300 journalists have been killed in the last 25 years, including 115 in 2015.

The Congress included a march in commemoration of local photojournalist Camille Lepage, killed on assignment in the Central African Republic. Lepage's mother made an emotional address to the group during a memorial



Journalists march in Angers, France for local photojournalist Camille Lepage.

at the local library.

The Congress was held in Angers, France, home to a prominent journalism school, on the 90th anniversary of the founding of the IFJ in Paris.

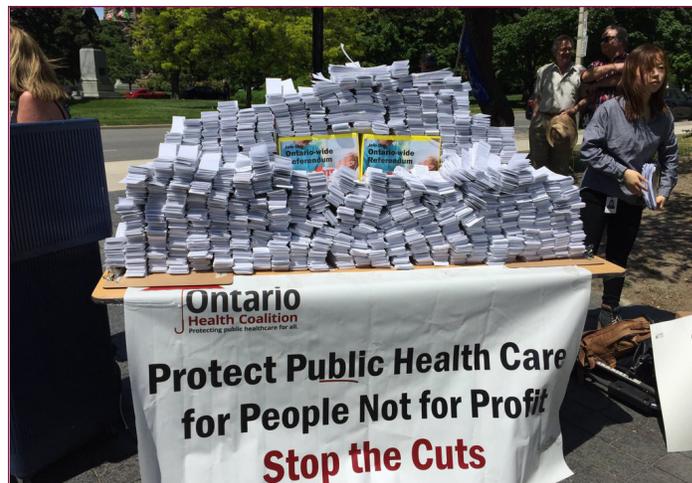
The IFJ works to train and protect journalists around the world. It has offices in Brussels, Latin America, Asia Pacific and Africa.

>> Continued from "Referendum on..." on page 1

Ontario Health Coalition, the voluntary referendum involved Unifor members and retirees who volunteered to collect votes in over 40 communities. The action was part of a larger health campaign.

Unifor, as a member of the Coalition, helped deliver the message that Ontarians are against cuts to hospitals and health care. The referendum also affirmed that voters favour restoring services, funding and staff to meet health care needs.

"The crisis in health care is simply unsustainable," said Ontario Regional Director Katha Fortier. "Ontario has dropped well below all of the other provinces in hospital



Ontario Regional Director Katha Fortier, along with Health Care Director, Corey Vermey, and Director, Political Action and Member Mobilization Director, Roland Kiehne helped present 94,000 referendum ballots.

funding, and smaller communities have been hardest hit, as there aren't as many front-line workers or resources to fill the gaps."

Unifor is a strong defender of our public health care system - one that provides high-quality

care for every resident, regardless of their income level or where they live. Learn about Unifor's campaign for stronger public health care visit the campaign page: <http://www.unifor.org/healthaccord>.

>> Continued from "Auto Council prioritizes..." on page 1

resolutions calling for each company to commit to bringing new products to Canada, and to specific investment mandates for Canadian assembly and powertrain operations.

That means there will be no deals with GM, Ford or Fiat-Chrysler without specific commitments from each that we will have new products made right here in Canada.

Delegates in attendance came to London from Unifor Locals at Detroit Three auto plants in Ontario, bringing with them the priorities for bargaining from each of those plants. Prior to these meetings, the locals from each of the Detroit Three companies met to discuss

their main concerns. The meeting set priorities for the industry bargaining talks as a whole.

"Priorities set today for new products and commitments to investment mandates are about the continued prosperity of our industry and our communities," said Taylor.

The Council meeting was opened by Unifor National President Jerry Dias, who said that ensuring new investments in Canada would benefit the entire Canadian economy. Unifor is also committed to achieving improvements in other key areas such as wages, new hire provisions and more, Dias said.

"The auto industry pays huge benefits to our communities, in terms of spinoff jobs, the wages our



Retirees and members of the Auto Council during the June meeting.

members spend in their local communities and the taxes they pay that support schools, hospitals and more," Dias said.

For every job in auto, nine more are created

throughout the community at suppliers and other companies that sell to the auto plants, as well as the spending done by those workers, he said.

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speakers, was to challenge inequality and racism wherever they encounter it. Keynote Angela Robertson said, "no longer can we work in silos or be silent. It's time to be bold, shake things up and ask tough questions if things are going to change."

While the political context in Canada has transformed since Harper was given the pink slip, there is still work to do to advance equity.

"We can't pretend racism doesn't exist in our daily lives, it manifests in many blatant forms, but subtle ways too," said Unifor Director of Human Rights and International Department, Mohamad Alsadi.

Speaking to delegates, Unifor National President, Jerry Dias, added his own perspective on next steps for the union, stating that Unifor needs to take advantage of this moment to instigate greater change in society. "Things are starting to change slowly," Dias said. But he cautioned that we cannot become complacent with the current Liberal government. "We must continue to push for change; in fact this is why our union was born."

Delegates left with new friendships, inspiration and motivation to be unapologetic in building a movement for change. Stay tuned for updates on Unifor's plan of action to increase representation of equity-seeking groups in all levels of the union.

Unifor appeals Suncor drug and alcohol testing

Unifor 707-A announced it will appeal a decision to quash a previous Arbitration Panel ruling, prohibiting random drug and alcohol testing of members at Suncor in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, Alberta.

"Random drug and alcohol testing violates the basic rights of workers," said Western Regional Director Joie Warnock.

In 2012, Suncor unilaterally announced the implementation of random testing in its Oilsands operations. Unifor filed a grievance which resulted in the formation of an Arbitration Panel.

Following 23 days of

hearings, the Arbitration Panel, in March 2014, ruled that Suncor's proposed random testing violated the fundamental rights of privacy, respect, and dignity in the workplace and could not be justified.

The Union is committed to working with Suncor to develop safety programs that respect workers' rights.

"We will continue to work with Suncor to ensure members' safety, both on and off the job," said Ian Beaton, Vice President of Local 707-A. "At the moment our focus remains on our members and their loved ones rebuilding after the forest fires in the Fort McMurray region."



IN THIS ISSUE Unifor announces action to protect workers and appeal Suncor ruling. Aboriginal and Workers of Colour discuss plan of action to build inclusion. Auto Council sets bargaining priorities for the Detroit Three negotiations. International journalists gather on safety and international solidarity issues. Read about Convention updates.

Member's fundraising buys ambulance in Nicaragua

On a recent volunteering trip to Nicaragua, Unifor Local 302 Paramedic Jennifer Cripton saw an ambulance with no working emergency lights or seat belts, and it often required a push to get started. She knew something had to be done.

With only six paramedics serving the city of El Viejo, a community of more than 125,000, Cripton realized that an equipped ambulance would be a big help. In her own hometown of St. Thomas, just south of London, four well-stocked ambulances serve a city of 38,000.

"They don't have any equipment, other than gloves that are donated.

They don't carry medicines. They mostly deal with trauma," Cripton told the London Free Press recently.

After contacting several paramedic services in Ontario about purchasing a used vehicle, she finally got the response she hoped for from Middlesex London, which agreed to sell her a retiring ambulance.

This fall, a caravan of at least five firetrucks and the ambulance will travel south to deliver the much-needed vehicles to Nicaragua. It was during a similar trip earlier this year that Cripton saw the need for an ambulance in El Viejo.

"We should never be surprised by health care



Unifor Local 302 Paramedic Jennifer Cripton with local Paramedics in El Viejo, Nicaragua

workers reaching out to assist others because that is the fabric of their very being," Unifor National President Jerry Dias told the recent Unifor Health Care Conference, where Cripton raised about half the money she needed.

Cripton said she was overjoyed and overwhelmed by the support and generosity of her union.

To follow along on Jennifer's journey and read about her continued social justice actions visit: Jennifercripton.com.