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# uniforum



Unifor members join the Maritime Day of Action rally in Victoria to oppose the privatization of federal infrastructure.

## Privatization rallies unite unions

The fightback against the privatization of federal infrastructure has gained momentum after rallies were held across Canada this month.

On January 12, Unifor members joined the International Longshore Workers' Union (ILWU) in support of the Maritime Workers Day of Action, with marches in Vancouver, Victoria, Prince Rupert, Montreal and Toronto. The rallies protested the sale of federal infrastructure (such as rail lines, airports, and ports) and other recommendations stemming from a report authored by former Conservative cabinet minister David Emerson.

The report by Emerson recommends widespread privatization rather than public investments to keep critical infrastructure in the hands of government and it has guided the

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## Chronicle Herald strike approaches 1-year

One year ago on January 23, 61 newsroom workers at The Chronicle Herald went on strike after their employer demanded a mountain of concessions including a 17 per cent wage cut.

Unifor members have been supporting the

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## Bell Craft deal reached

After four months of bargaining a tentative agreement has been reached to renew the Bell Craft contract, following several intense days of negotiations in Montreal.

"We are pleased to have reached a tentative agreement. Unifor's bargaining committee did a great job and kept the members' needs front and centre throughout negotiations," said National

Representative Alain Portelance who chaired the contract talks.

Details of the new tentative agreement will be released at ratification meetings in the coming weeks. Impacted by the contract are more than 3,800 technicians in Ontario and Quebec that Unifor represents. Members will be notified of times and places for the ratification votes as meeting details are

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# Unifor Education

Does your New Year's resolution call for building your own skills and for strengthening your local union to meet the challenges of today's workplace? If so then make sure to check out the new Education Program schedule for Spring 2017.

The courses, delivered at the Unifor Education Centre in Port Elgin, Ontario, cover a variety of subjects including activism, health and safety and leadership development.

For courses offered in your region or at Port Elgin visit [unifor.org/education](http://unifor.org/education)

### Important Unifor dates:

Here are a few key dates to put in your 2017 calendar. This is your union, get active!

**May 5-7 - Aboriginal and Workers of Colour Conference,** Port Elgin

**May 12-14 - Pride Conference,** Port Elgin

**June 23-25 - National Environment Conference,** Port Elgin

**August 15 - 17 - Unifor Organizing Forum,** Winnipeg

**August 18-20 Canadian Council,** Winnipeg

Details and registration info coming soon. Check [unifor.org](http://unifor.org) for updates.

# Aerospace workers locked out

After nearly two years without a collective agreement, American-owned aerospace company D-J Composites locked out 33 Unifor members at its manufacturing plant in Gander, Newfoundland and Labrador days before the holidays.

Members of Local 597 were unwilling to accept a company demand for three to five-year wage freezes and voted for a strike mandate, but told the company they wanted to continue bargaining. Instead, the employer made a snap decision to lock out the workers.

Unifor 597 President Carolyn Wrice said that despite attempts to put members on their knees, the resolve remains strong and united.

On January 12, Unifor organized a rally and members were overwhelmed by the support from NAPE, CUPE - NL, the National Union of Defence Employees, PSAC, the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Labour, other Unifor locals and the local community.

"The support from day one has been amazing. This is what solidarity looks like," said Ignatious Oram, plant chair for Local 597. "We're standing strong because we know we're not asking for a whole lot, just a fair deal."

Workers are looking to maintain benefits and ask for a wage increase that keeps up with the cost-of-living.

"The offer from the employer would see our members falling behind, but we are unwilling to go backwards," said Lana Payne,



Atlantic Regional Director Lana Payne addresses rally to support D-J Composites members.

Atlantic Regional Director. "Local 597 know they have the support and solidarity of Unifor members across the country, but I encourage all locals to express that solidarity financially and otherwise."

Unifor contacted a labour conciliator to get talks moving.

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striking journalists at rallies, by making generous donations and cancelling subscriptions to the now scab-written newspaper.

"This strike isn't about anything but union-busting, plain and simple," said Lana Payne, Atlantic Regional Director. "Unifor members have shown amazing solidarity with the Herald workers who are defending unionized jobs and quality journalism. We need to keep up the fight."

To mark the anniversary supporters across Nova Scotia are coordinating a Day of Protest. On January 23, people are asked to wear black, join information pickets across the province and take to social media using #endCHstrike to



Unifor members make a donation to support striking Chronical Herald workers.

show support.

"We need everyone out there, holding signs and demanding Mr. Lever negotiate a fair deal," said Payne. "Every day this strike continues is another day that skilled journalists are not holding government

to account or keeping the public informed. It's another day that union-busters across the country think they might win."

For information about the HTU Day of Protest visit <http://htu-cwa.ca>

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Trudeau Liberals' thinking on upgrading federal infrastructure with funds raised by selling public assets.

During public consultations in 2016 on the future of transportation infrastructure in Canada, Unifor argued that privatization won't save money in the long-term. Research has consistently shown that privatization leads to higher costs for the public, lower-paying jobs, and reduced public oversight and safety.

"Canada's transportation sector is a source of good, long-term jobs," said Jerry Dias, National President. "We'll fight any privatization scheme that puts private

profit ahead of public safety and secure employment."

Despite the criticism, a plan released by the federal government in November prioritizes foreign ownership and relies heavily on the new Canada Infrastructure Bank, something Unifor says is simply a fundraising scheme for privatization.

Unifor's partners at the ILWU have launched a campaign to oppose the Emerson report due in part to the fact that it recommends dismantling "cabotage"—the legal framework that ensures maritime work in Canada is done by Canadian workers on Canadian equipment. The ILWU says that change alone could kill 12,000 good jobs.

Unions aren't the only ones who are



**Unions unite at January 12 rally in Vancouver.**

deeply skeptical about infrastructure privatization and the concern about privatization is not limited to the federal transportation sector.

In Vancouver, both the city council and the airport authority are publicly opposing airport

privatization. In an op ed to the Globe and Mail in December 2016, Air Canada CEO Caelan Rovinescu expressed his opposition to privatizing airports, citing the increased costs to individual air travelers almost guaranteed under a privatized model.

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confirmed.

The collective agreement expired November 30, 2016 while negotiations commenced in Ottawa on September 15, 2016.

Preparations began in December to hold strike votes after eight weeks of meetings with the Company and two more weeks of day and night negotiations in the presence of the conciliator.

Bargaining to renew the Bell Craft collective agreement resumed after a break in December last week in Montreal, following the direct involvement by Unifor National President Jerry Dias.

Bell senior management contacted Dias directly, declaring an interest in

pursuing further discussions at the bargaining table.

In a conference call on December 27 between Dias and bargaining committee members, the group agreed to pause holding a strike vote while new bargaining dates were set.

Those talks resumed January 13, and continued through the past weekend, concluding in the early hours of January 16.

Bargaining committee members:

Jeff Brohman, Local 34-0, Claude Brazeau, Local 80, Ray Mortimer, Local 26, Alain Paradis, Local 8284, Alain Sévigny, Local 8284, and Drew Wickens, Local 53.

## Auto grants welcomed

A recent announcement from the federal and Ontario provincial governments shows the governments have heard what Unifor and others have been telling them for years about the need to convert repayable loans to the auto industry to grants.

"It is good to see Ottawa and the province recognizing the importance of the auto industry to provide much-needed good jobs and investment in our communities," said Jerry Dias, National President. "When all levels of government work together to show leadership and support for the auto industry it is a sign of good public policy."

In announcing support for a Honda plant, Innovation Minister Navdeep Bains also said the Automotive Investment Fund will now include the option of "contributions without the expectation of repayment."

"With the Trump White House showing it will be very aggressive on the auto file, it is more important than ever that Canada develop a clear and strong policy for keeping and attracting auto investments," Dias said.

Unifor secured \$1.5 billion in investment in Canada during its 2016 collective bargaining with the Detroit Three automakers (Fiat Chrysler, Ford and GM).



**IN THIS ISSUE** Unifor joins Day of Action to fight privatization of federal infrastructure. Standing in solidarity with locked-out workers in Newfoundland. Support for Chronical Herald workers and quality journalism. New government auto grants encourage investment and more!

## Members give back to communities

During the 2016 holiday season Unifor members across the country gave generously by donating millions of dollars in cash and goods.

In a spirit of building and supporting local communities, countless members carefully selected toys, dropped off food and offered donations to support families living in poverty. One drive alone, organized by Locals 673 and 112 at the Bombardier Aerospace unit, collected over \$5,000 worth of toys.

To help ensure that no one would go hungry over the holidays Unifor Local 1 donated 350 turkeys and Local 414 members loaded

up trucks to supply turkey dinners in their Mississauga neighbourhood. Out in Victoria, BC a contribution to the Mustard Seed Street Church was used to aid the homeless and working poor. From coast-to-coast, Unifor donations translated into tens of thousands of meals.

Support was also extended to victims of domestic violence as care packages were assembled by Local 6004 for women at the Sexual Assault Support Centre, while Expertech Clerical members in Ontario and Quebec donated part of their pay equity settlement to local women's shelters.

By supporting local community initiatives



**Local 414 members deliver turkeys with the trimmings to provide holiday dinners.**

during the holidays and all year long, our union makes an important contribution to give back and build a better society to both work and live in.

Do you have a story to share? If you know of a Unifor member, or if your

Local is helping to make a difference in the community share your story by emailing [communications@unifor.org](mailto:communications@unifor.org).

Visit [Facebook.com/UniforCanada](https://www.facebook.com/UniforCanada) for other holiday donation photos.