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Members from across the province join together to demand reform of Ontario's labour laws.

Rally for Decent Work

Unifor members turned out in force as thousands of activists attended the October 1st rally at Queen's Park to demand decent work for all.

"After 20 years of inequality and exploitation of millions of workers in this province we are here today because the time is now to make it the law of Ontario that every worker will have the right to decent work," said Unifor National President Jerry Dias.

The action was organized by the Ontario Federation of Labour as part of its Make it Fair campaign. A key demand in the campaign is to establish a living wage for every worker. The campaign is partnered with the Fight for \$15 and Fairness Coalition and calls for an increase to the minimum wage, the creation of good full-time jobs, fair scheduling practices, paid sick days & vacation, an end

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Public transit investments flow to China

Unifor is raising concerns about the purchase of 17 "Vicinity" buses from China by BC Transit, the body responsible for public transit outside Metro Vancouver. The \$6 million public expense will create no jobs in Canada.

In 2013, documents obtained under Freedom of

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Members say no to the TPP at Halifax hearings

A crowd of Unifor members and representatives from other social, political and environmental groups gathered in Halifax on Thursday, Sept. 29 to say 'no' to the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP).

Public hearings were being held by the Canadian Government's Standing Committee on International Trade (CIIT) as part of a

series of cross-country consultations with the public on the trade deal. Unifor organized and led a march through the Halifax business district to the hotel where the hearings were held.

"What Canadians need is a progressive trade agenda - and that's not the TPP," said Atlantic Regional Director Lana Payne to the crowd of

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Bargaining with FCA begins

A pattern agreement for the Detroit Three has now been established with General Motors and Unifor's negotiations have now turned to Fiat-Chrysler Automotive. Talks with FCA formally opened on August 11 before focus shifted to GM as the target and resumed after ratification with GM.

"We have established a strong pattern with GM, one that will bring a stable future and create jobs. In our negotiations with FCA we will push to continue to secure the Canadian auto industry," said Unifor National President Jerry Dias.

Unifor set a strike deadline with FCA as of 12:01 a.m. on October 11. Once a tentative agreement with FCA is ratified by the membership, negotiations will begin with Ford.

unifor.org/autotalks16
[Facebook.com/AutoTalks16](https://www.facebook.com/AutoTalks16)

Unifor's inaugural human rights conference



Delegates challenged to identify opportunities to knock down barriers at first Human Rights Conference.

Unifor's first Human Rights Conference, held at the union's Family Education Centre, launched with the theme of finding openings for human rights work in our workplaces and our communities.

"Each of us must use the openings we have to make our workplaces and our communities more inclusive, democratic, safe and equitable," said Unifor's Director, Human Rights and International Department Mohamad Alsadi.

Delegates from all regions, representing equity seeking groups and allies, participated in the two and a half day

conference. All three Regional Directors, Joie Warnock from Western Canada, Naureen Rizvi in Ontario and Lana Payne from the Atlantic, played an active role at the conference and committed to share the experience and voices of members with the rest of the National Executive Board.

Keynote speaker Remzi Cej, Chair of the Newfoundland and Labrador Human Rights Commission, told his story as a refugee and LGBTQ activist. While speaker Mathieu Giroux shared his experience living with autism and reminded delegates about invisible disabilities in the

workplace.

Delegates were challenged by 19 year-old Shania Pruden to think about their individual actions on Indigenous issues. In addition, the important role of unions in social activism was stressed by Professor Akua Benjamin who told the conference that "an anti-discrimination clause in a collective agreement is more valuable than all the human rights commissions."

Conference attendees left Port Elgin filled with energy to break open spaces and strengthen Unifor's equity agenda. Visit [Facebook.com/UniforCanada](https://www.facebook.com/UniforCanada) to see the photos!



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Information requests said that BC Transit had "quality concerns" about the same Chinese-made Vicinity buses from Grande West Transportation.

Unifor says that BC Transit's fleet enhancement should have relied on models that are already in use in Metro Vancouver made by New Flyer Industries or Nova Bus. New Flyer employs more than

1,350 workers in Winnipeg and Nova Bus employs more than 750 workers in Québec.

"It's disgraceful when Canada has world-class transit vehicle manufacturers but the Premier would rather send that work and funding overseas," said Gavin McGarrigle, Unifor's BC Area Director. "We can't have a green economy without creating green jobs

at home."

The newest order from BC Transit adds to the May 2016 purchase of 41 Vicinity buses from China-based manufacturer Yangzhou Asiastar Bus Company in Yangzhou City.

"Grande West can claim to be a Canadian company all it wants, but it's no secret that the manufacturing happens overseas," said McGarrigle.

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to contract flipping, closure of the gender/racialized wage gap and easier access to a union.

Unifor members began the day at Toronto's Allan Gardens where they heard from Unifor East Danforth Community Chapter representatives on the direct impact a \$15 minimum wage would have on many of their members.

"Immigrants do not leave their homes and families to come to Canada to live in poverty like outcasts," said Executive Committee Chair Syeda Sabiha Yesmin. "Coming from Bangladesh I expected to find a job and to work hard so my family could enjoy a new life, but that is not the reality for me

or many newcomers."

On the lawn of Queen's Park speakers, including one of Unifor's own, talked about deteriorating conditions experienced because of erratic scheduling, contract flipping and precarious part-time work.

"Why shouldn't grocery store workers have decent wages and working conditions," Unifor local 414 member Deb Henry asked. "This should be our reality, it should be our right."

The rally sent a clear signal to the Ontario government about the need for labour reform and coincides with the ongoing Ontario Changing Workplaces Review.

"New labour laws in Ontario will transform the world of work by



Local 673 President Maryellen McIlmoyle and East Danforth Community Chapter member Sultana Jahangir march to Queen's Park.

recognizing worker's rights," said Dias. He went on to tell the Wynne government that they don't have much time to implement the new laws warning "Do not mistake our determination to catch up with the decades when we were left behind, and do not miss this meeting with

history."

Members are encouraged to submit ideas to update Ontario's outdated labour laws. Email CWR.SpecialAdvisors@ontario.ca today!

View rally photos at: [Facebook.com/UniforCanada](https://www.facebook.com/UniforCanada)

>> Continued from "Members rally against TPP..." on page 1

supporters. "The previous government hastily entered negotiations near the very end. The last thing we need is for our new government to ratify a bad deal that will cost us our good jobs and hurt our economy."

Payne spoke to the CIIT and highlighted elements of the TPP that will negatively affect Atlantic Canadians including: the importation of American and Asian dairy products that will not have to comply with Canadian regulations against the use of growth hormones; the increase in raw lumber exports instead of keeping processing jobs here at home and the increased cost of prescription drugs.

"We should all be concerned about any

deal that prevents our local governments from negotiating lower prices on medications," said Payne. "Atlantic Canada has the highest ratio of elderly people in the country and the TPP will make it far more difficult for us to access affordable drugs."

Unifor has been outspoken about the negative impacts of the TPP on many industries including dairy, forestry, auto and health care. For more information on the impacts of the TPP, including industry-specific info sheets, visit: unifor.org/TPP.



Unifor active on electoral reform in Canada

Unifor activists across Canada are telling a federal committee of MPs that our electoral system needs change to make more voters' voices heard.

"The opportunity is now. If you, our elected representatives, fail to take this opportunity, it will be a long time before these conditions come around again," Ontario Regional Director Naureen Rizvi told the Special Committee on Electoral Reform as it passed through Toronto.

"History is being made now. I am here to tell you that our membership is ready for change and expecting you to lead that change."

To show the union's

support for proportional representation the Political Action Department is mobilizing members to attend almost all of the cross-country hearings. Unifor's national convention endorsed the electoral reform.

The hearings wrap up October 7 in Fredericton. The committee reports to Parliament on December 1.

"We want more reasons for young people and all those who have been alienated from politics to engage and participate," Ben Williams, President of Unifor Local 333, told the hearings in Victoria.

For more information visit: unifor.org/electoralreform



Unifor raises \$85,000 at “Hope in High Heels”

Teams of Unifor brothers and family members of all ages took to the streets in high heels to help raise funds for Halton Women’s Place, the only women’s shelter in the Halton, Ontario Region.

“The men in the Unifor group were walking literally and symbolically in the shoes of women,” said Unifor National President Jerry Dias. “We wear high heels to publically show support for the hundreds of women and children who require help from Halton Women’s Place to flee abusive homes and to rebuild their lives.”

The “Hope in High Heels” event is a walk for men which seeks to raise

awareness about violence against women and funds to provide programs and services to survivors. This year a Unifor team participated in Milton’s inaugural “Hope in High Heels”, while additional teams attended the annual Burlington and Oakville walks. Combined the teams raised a total \$85,000 for the shelter.

“This event is specific to boys and men because we know that without a change of attitudes and actions by boys and men, we will never end violence against women,” said Halton Women’s Place Development Manager Carm Bozzo. “We need men

IN THIS ISSUE Members rally for a \$15 dollar minimum wage and decent jobs in Ontario and stand up against the TPP in Nova Scotia. A light is shone on human rights issues at the union’s inaugural conference. Unifor brothers’ take steps to end violence against women and more!



Walking proud at Milton’s “Hope in High Heels” fundraiser for Halton Women’s Place.

in our lives and in every community to be part of the solution.” Bozzo thanked Jerry Dias and Unifor for the long-standing commitment to speak out against violence and for being active allies to prevent and end violence.

Dias is a long-time supporter of Halton Women’s Place, together with his son Jordan and his Unifor brothers Team Dias has raised over \$335,000 for “Hope in High Heels” to date.