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Unifor women gather for historic moment as Daughters of the Vote take over Parliament on International Women's Day.

Women take over Parliament

The face and gender of Parliament changed on March 8 as 338 young women between the ages of 18 and 23 filled the seats of the House of Commons to represent their riding.

The historic event, known as Daughters of the Vote, was organized by Equal Voice and sponsored by several unions including Unifor to promote the participation and involvement of women in politics.

Joining the Daughters of the Vote in Ottawa was a delegation of 22 Unifor women that came from across the country and represented different sectors, ages and identities. Unifor women were invited to participate in the Daughters of the Vote event to be empowered by women's representation.

Greeting the Unifor delegation was Lisa Kelly, Director Women's

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Rally to stop sell-off of Sask Crowns

On March 8, hundreds of Unifor members from around Saskatchewan joined other union members and allies to demonstrate at the legislature in Regina.

The rally was called to protest the conservative provincial government's plans to roll back public sector wages and privatize

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Members warn NS health minister of impact of long-term care cuts

Unifor local leaders working in long-term care in Nova Scotia made sure the province's health minister knew the impact that two years of funding cuts have had on the quality of care for seniors.

Health care workers were bold and heartfelt when they met with Minister Leo

Glavine on February 28. Showing the strength of our union, members did not shy away from explaining just how devastating the cuts to funding have been on staffing levels, on patient care, and on food budgets. The minister got an earful.

"This is so unfair to our seniors, and for the

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End Racism

Unifor recognizes the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on March 21. Join with the union to show your solidarity against racism and Islamophobia, please find a space in your workplace or Local to post the 2017 anti-racism poster.

The annual Aboriginal and Workers of Colour Conference is happening, May 5-7 in Port Elgin, Ontario. This conference is open to members who are Indigenous and/or workers of colour and will give participants tools to fight for substantive equality and for political, economic and social justice. unifor.org/awoc2017

Family Ed Program

The Family Ed Program is your chance to take your family on vacation to Unifor's beautiful Centre in Port Elgin, on the shores of Lake Huron. Learn about our union and issues facing workers, while the kids enjoy recreational programs and teens participate in a specially designed social unionism program.

Apply to attend one of these sessions: July 30 to August 6, or August 6 to 13. Registration deadline is March 31.

For more info visit <http://www.unifor.org/family>

Women make the union strong

Unifor women are helping to grow the union, as many active organizing campaigns represent the changing demographics of the workforce in Canada.

"Women are more likely to find themselves working in precarious employment and in sectors that are hard to organize," said Roxanne Dubois, Unifor National Organizing Representative. "Our capacity to train and involve young women will prove to be essential in welcoming more women to our union."

Jennifer Moreau, Vice-President of Unifor Local 2000, started organizing after disruption in the print and newspaper industries led to a reduction in jobs and the local's membership.

With a need to diversify and strengthen the base of unionized work she reached out to workers in British Columbia's animation, visual effects and game development industries.

"This is one of the most exciting, rewarding, high-stakes roles in the labour movement," said Moreau. "Organizing has such a huge impact on people's lives. It's very fulfilling to know you're helping workers in a meaningful, positive way."

Samia Hashi, who helped organize Bell TV members in Scarborough, Ontario, is also actively encouraging union sisters to get involved. Hashi began as a workplace activist, went on to negotiate a first agreement with the bargaining committee, and



Women organizers help to address precarious work.

now sits on the Ontario Young Workers' Committee.

"Just do it! Start anywhere, whether it's in your community, school or Local," said Hashi. "We often second guess ourselves or don't give ourselves enough credit for the strengths we do have and my advice is to eliminate that doubt and just get in there. The rest will come."

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Crown corporations.

"Brad Wall is mistaken if he thinks that the people of Saskatchewan will give up their cherished Crown corporations without a fight," said Joie Warnock, Unifor Western Director.

Earlier in the week Unifor published an animated video that uses the fable of the Goose that Laid Golden Eggs to demonstrate how the Sask Party government's handling of the Crowns threatens the future of the province. To view Unifor's Goose that Laid Golden Eggs video visit: [Youtube.com/UniforCanada](https://www.youtube.com/UniforCanada).

"Saskatchewan Crown corporations save people money every day and help fund hospitals and



Regina rally to save Saskatchewan Crowns from privatization.

schools," said Warnock.

Despite explicitly promising to not privatize any of the Crowns during the spring 2016 election, the Sask Party introduced Bill 40 in October and the legislation's sole purpose is to define the terms of

Crown corporation sell-offs.

In response to Bill 40 and the attack on public services, Unifor launched the "Stand up for your Crowns" campaign. A petition and other materials are online at myCrowns.ca.

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Department, Naureen Rizvi, Ontario Regional Director and Deb Tveit, Assistant to the National President. In a pointed conversation filled with humour, Tveit reminded the group that "nice women never changed history." Kelly followed up by stressing the need for women's involvement to push for change and demand more because "the system isn't just broken, it was built this way, but together I know we can change it."

To coincide with International Women's Day, the Daughters of the Vote were called upon in Parliament to make a one minute speech. 30 women

presented on issues ranging from electoral reform, suicide and mental health, sexual assault, the need for a living wage, access to post-secondary education, and there were several demands for Indigenous rights and improved funding for Aboriginal services. Some of the most pointed and powerful voices came from interventions that called for action on racism and Islamophobia.

Unifor women left Parliament feeling empowered and motivated by the powerful voices. Remarking on the speeches Rizvi said, "This is the hope for our future. It is just the beginning of what is to



Daughters of the Vote fill every seat in the House of Commons.

come. What's important now is that Unifor women get active to make this kind of government possible."

National President, Jerry Dias was also on hand to observe the event and participate in a He for She panel that followed the Daughters of the Vote in Parliament. Speaking to

a packed room Dias said, "There is a need to change the politics of this country and to do that we need you - the women, and especially women in the union - to bring forward a bold vision."

For more information visit: daughtersofthevote.ca

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Unifor delegation prepare for face-to-face meeting with Nova Scotia Health Minister Leo Glavine.

government to have said the cuts don't have an impact on care is ridiculous," said Linda MacLeod, President of Local 4620. "I've worked in long-term care for 27 years and I can tell you that people used to walk into our home and now everyone arrives by ambulance. Greater care is required, yet we're consistently understaffed and asked to do twelve hours of work in eight."

Atlantic Regional Director Lana Payne was firm as she told the minister and his top officials, including the deputy minister and the heads of continuing care and labour relations, what would address the crisis.

"We want the cuts reversed and we want an investment in long-term care that delivers dignity to residents and seniors, and respect for long-term care providers," said Payne.

Unifor launched advertisements across the province and on social media to demand the government reverse the cuts. Members have also been meeting with MLAs across Nova Scotia. The union is encouraging residents to sign the online petition directed at Premier Stephen McNeil, and to call their MLA.

The petition and campaign updates can be found at unifor.org/LTC.

Major victory for Navistar workers

The long fight for severance money owed to workers at a closed Navistar plant in southwestern Ontario concluded on February 28 with an arbitrated decision awarding all entitled workers their outstanding payments under the Employment Standards Act.

"This is a significant victory for these workers and their families," said Jerry Dias, National President of Unifor, which represents the workers. "It is simply appalling that a company as large as Navistar could be so heartless and attempt to deny its long-serving and dedicated workers the money they are legally owed. Navistar's greed hurt many families for years as this fight continued and that is inexcusable."

Production at the Navistar plant in Chatham stopped in June 2009, with the company announcing the plant's permanent closure in July 2011. The company refused to pay its workers, members of Unifor Locals 35 and 127, the severance as required under Ontario law.

"There was never any question that Unifor would dedicate the resources needed to bring justice for these workers," said Unifor National Secretary-Treasurer Bob Orr.

For more details, go to unifor.org/navistar.





IN THIS ISSUE Unifor joins Daughters of the Vote in its calls for justice. Saskatchewan members rally to stop privatization of Crowns. Unifor tells Nova Scotia Health Minister that seniors are suffering due to cuts. Victory at Navistar and more!

Unifor donates \$146,000 to aid families fleeing abuse

Locals across the country helped to distribute a total of \$146,000 to 73 shelters to aid families escaping domestic violence. Each shelter received a \$2,000 donation, made possible by Unifor's Social Justice Fund, as part of the union's work in local communities to eradicate gender-based violence.

"These organizations provide desperately needed front-line aid to women and children, who often have nowhere else to turn," said Mohamad Alsadi Director, Human Rights and International Department. "The donations were timed to coincide with International Women's

Day to help draw attention to the need to address the social and economic inequality of women."

The work of the union has been, and will continue to be, on the forefront of change to support women living with violence. In the workplace, bargaining committees have successfully negotiated support mechanisms and paid domestic violence leave into numerous collective agreements. Unifor's ground breaking Women's Advocate program also trains representatives to assist women with issues of harassment and abuse, and it aim is to create healthier



Sandra McGibbon from the Victoria Bridges for Women Society accepts \$2,000 donation from Unifor members Brenda Mason 780G and Barbie Zipp, Elycia-Lynn Martine Evans and Jeannie Blaney from Local 114.

workplaces, and safer communities.

"Violence against women is a pervasive problem that affects communities across Canada and to address the systemic issues at the root of inequality, real change is required at all levels of government," said Jerry Dias, Unifor National President.

On a national level, Unifor is lobbying the federal government to enact paid domestic violence leave legislation and continues to champion the need for gender justice. For more information on the campaign and to sign the online petition to MPs, visit: unifor.org/women.