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# uniFORUM



Over 1,000 members team up with Irving Pulp & Paper in New Brunswick to call for a fair softwood deal

## Unifor keeps pressure on with softwood rallies

Unifor members, employers and allies rallied in five key forestry communities across the country on June 19 to tell the federal government that a negotiated deal with the U.S. for fair trade in softwood lumber must be a top priority.

The Americans levied a 20 per cent “countervailing” tariff on Canadian softwood lumber exports in May 2017 and are expected to levy an “anti-dumping” tariff this month. Experts say that Canadian lumber prices have surged 18 per cent to compensate for the duties, something that makes Canadian mills less competitive and layoffs and closures a certainty.

In response to pressure from Unifor, the federal government announced a \$867 million aid package

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## Auto parts sector sets unified bargaining campaign

Unifor auto parts locals held the first-ever joint bargaining strategy conference, establishing a common set of goals and priorities for future contract talks.

“We have our first

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## Health care workers talk experience and activism

Unifor’s national health care conference brought together the largest group of health care workers ever, as more than 203 participants from 19 local unions in Ontario and Nova Scotia gathered at the union’s education centre in Port Elgin from June 9-11.

The conference explored the need to advocate for strengthening universal public health care, creating

a national pharmacare program, ending cuts to hospitals and long-term care, as well as establishing a minimum amount of hours of hands on care.

Delegates also had the opportunity to root these issues in their own work experience during workshops on mental health, workplace stress and bullying; a new vision

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# National Aboriginal Day

Canada's history of colonialism and cultural genocide against Indigenous people must be recognized so we can push for change. June 21, which is National Aboriginal Day, provides an important marker to celebrate Indigenous peoples' culture, history and achievements, but action from our union is needed every day of the year.

Despite being ordered many times to properly provide education, health and social services for Indigenous children the federal government still has not funded these programs equally.

As trade unionists, every member shares a responsibility to work towards reconciliation and justice for Indigenous people. In the past year, Unifor has financially supported educational initiatives for Indigenous children and youth, the union has helped fund access to clean water and sponsored the North American Indigenous Games.

Together we can create a future that recognizes the rights of Indigenous people. Show your support post this Unifor poster in your workplace. Download it here [unifor.org/awoc](http://unifor.org/awoc)



# Unifor supports Indigenous Games

Unifor partnered with the Toronto 2017 North American Indigenous Games, which will take place in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area on July 16-23.

"Unifor is honoured to support the Toronto 2017 North American Indigenous Games. Our sponsorship will help to ensure the broader community can celebrate the achievements of the athletes, and showcase the rich diversity of Indigenous culture," said National President Jerry Dias.

Dias participated in the official medal unveiling where it was announced that Unifor has been granted official naming rights to all medal ceremonies, as well as

naming rights to week-long cultural festivals to be held on the campuses of McMaster University and York University.

"Our commitment has always been to deliver a best-in-class Games experience for the athletes. Unifor will help to deliver this vision, not only for the Games, but in creating sustainable opportunities for Indigenous youth and their communities," said Marcia Trudeau-Bomberry, CEO, Toronto 2017 North American Indigenous Games.

The Games will host more than 5,000 participants, 2,000 volunteers and thousands of spectators, in what is expected to be the largest sporting and cultural



Unifor sponsors medal ceremonies and cultural festivals at the Toronto 2017 North American Indigenous Games

gathering of Indigenous Peoples in North America.

"These Games provide a unique opportunity to use the power of sport to unite cultures and communities in our common goal to build a better future for all," said Dias.

For more information visit [www.naig2017.to](http://www.naig2017.to).

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Auto part locals meet to strategize for upcoming negotiations

opportunity in a long time to really build this industry," National President Jerry Dias told Unifor's largest-ever gathering of more than 140 auto parts union leaders and staff.

Unifor represents about 17,000 workers in the auto parts sector at 120 bargaining units with 79 different employers.

Bargaining as a united sector with a common set of priorities will strengthen

the union's position at the bargaining table and enable it to improve conditions in the industry, Dias said.

The bargaining conference was the culmination of more than two years of discussions by local leadership from Unifor's Independent Parts Sector (IPS).

The approved bargaining agenda sets a joint strategy for the bargaining table, as well as priorities such as contract length, rejection

of two tier wages and temporary work, and better opportunities for hiring of laid off members, among other demands.

"This sector provides good jobs in dozens of communities. By taking a united approach to bargaining, we can build on that," said IPS Council President Robin Dudley.

Dudley said the conference was a big step in building solidarity in the sector.

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on June 1 to help cushion the blow to the industry. National President Jerry Dias said the package is an important tool, but the end game must be a negotiated trade deal.

“We are very encouraged at the government’s responsiveness but the job is not done, Canada needs a fair deal,” said Dias. “The government must negotiate from a position of strength and stand up for good forestry jobs.”

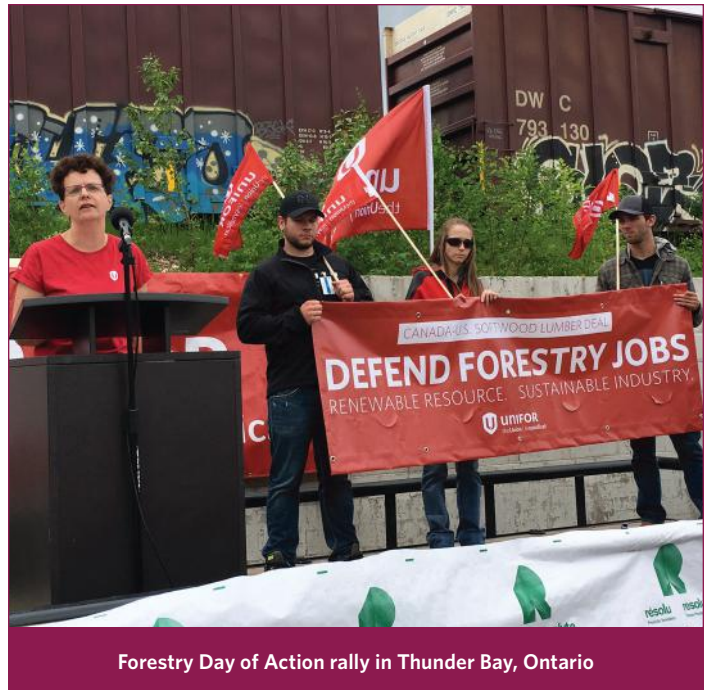
Unifor has a right to be concerned about the impact of U.S. duties on softwood lumber jobs. During the last softwood dispute the U.S. government levied 27 per cent in combined duties, causing nearly 15,000

Canadian forestry jobs to be lost.

The rallies were held in Saint John (Irving), Amos (Resolute), Baie-Comeau (Resolute), Jonquière (Resolute), and Thunder Bay (Resolute). With 23,000 members across 134 employers, Unifor is Canada’s forestry union and forestry accounts for over 200,000 direct jobs in 650 communities.

In Saint John Lana Payne, Atlantic Regional Director spoke at a 1,000 person rally saying, “We need a good deal and we need it now!” Payne’s speech followed a unity pledge by Irving to fight together.

At the Thunder Bay rally former pulp mill worker and Executive Assistant to the National President, Scott Doherty stated that,



Forestry Day of Action rally in Thunder Bay, Ontario

although the industry is as old as Canada, it is innovating and growing in ways that make it pivotal to the future. “Forestry is as Canadian an industry

as you’ll find. It provides good, community sustaining jobs, and has evolved to be extremely sustainable.”

For more info visit [unifor.org/softwood](http://unifor.org/softwood).

>> Continued from “Health care workers talk...” on page 1

for long-term care; and violence in the workplace. Secretary-Treasurer Bob Orr, Atlantic Regional Director Lana Payne, Assistant to the President Katha Fortier, and Health Care Director Andy Savela, in addition to a number of thought-provoking guest speakers, spoke to members over the two days.

“Unions know that losing medicare would be devastating for working people,” said Sean Meagher, Executive Director of Canadian Doctors for Medicare, who spoke extensively about the threat to public health care, posed by privatization and the government’s failure to uphold the Canada Health Act.

Presentations by

the Canadian Health Coalition and Blood Watch emphasized the need for a universal, publicly-funded pharmacare program and why we must ensure that blood collection services stay public.

With the departure of long-time health care National Executive Board member Nancy McMurphy, Local 302, conference delegates also nominated Shauna Wilcox, Local 4600 in Cape Breton, on behalf of the Health Care Council.

As the conference closed Health Care Director Savela encouraged local union leaders to get involved and ramp up the union’s fightback to defend health care for all. For more information and updates visit: [unifor.org/healthcare](http://unifor.org/healthcare).

## Federal child care investment falls short

The federal government’s commitment to child care was announced on June 12, but the funding promise falls far short of what Canadians need.

Allowing for the continuation of the current patchwork approach rather than establishing a universal public child care system for all guarantees that family needs will not be met.

“This framework agreement is missing a commitment to universal access which is the only way to address the increasing demand across the country for affordable, high-quality child care services,” said Women’s Director Lisa Kelly. “All the

evidence, research and international experience demonstrate that a targeted program cannot meet the development goals we wish for all children, regardless of their family’s social or economic status.”

Unifor will continue to push all levels of government to reject a market-based patchwork approach to child care. It is crucial for governments to work together for a comprehensive, publicly-funded system of high quality early childhood education and care that is inclusive of all children, while meeting the needs of parents and supporting workers in the sector.



## Members Walk For Domestic Abuse Services

Local 302 Executive Board members Rusty Sproul, Financial Secretary, and Kevin Phillips, Trustee, took to the streets of Woodstock, Ontario in the inaugural Men in Heels & Lunch on Wheels event in support of the Domestic Abuse Services Oxford (DASO).

“Domestic Abuse Services Oxford provides a safe haven and much needed services to women and children who are victimized by domestic violence,” said Sproul. “This work helps to better the lives of survivors and also helps to create a better society.”

The event challenged men to walk in women’s

shoes and help fund DASO’s programs for women who have been victimized by physical or sexual violence.

“We are so grateful for the participation of Local 302, and to the members who walked to demonstrate their support in ending violence against women,” said Rhonda Hendel, Executive Director, Domestic Abuse Services Oxford.

The June 1 event raised \$16,000 with the assistance of many generous business and organization partners including Local 302. In addition to cash donations, the Fill-a-Basket initiative at the event also brought in a truckload of essential

**IN THIS ISSUE** Forestry Day of Action rallies take place across the country to demand a new Canada-U.S. softwood lumber agreement. Unifor goes for gold with the Toronto 2017 North American Indigenous Games. Auto parts locals hold first joint bargaining strategy conference. Health Care Conference delegates work to strengthen universal public health care and more!

supplies for the shelter to support the needs of women and children. The shelter is a community service and is open 24 hours-a-day, seven days a week.

The Lunch on Wheels portion of the event came into play as participants also enjoyed tasty offerings from food trucks who generously donated lunch to the walkers. Organizers have already confirmed the event will take place again next year on June 7, 2018.

DASO is a leading resource for domestic abuse issues. For more information or to donate visit:

[www.daso.ca](http://www.daso.ca)

If your local is involved in a community initiative or program tell us about it! Email [communications@unifor.org](mailto:communications@unifor.org) to share the news.



Local 302 members walk to help end domestic violence