



# The Local 6004 Membership

Summer, 2014

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## *Unifor To Closely Watch Wynne*

In her throne speech last week, Ontario premier Kathleen Wynne re-introduced a budget that appeals to most labour groups — but the country’s biggest union warns it will keep a watchful eye glued to the Liberal party over the next four years. According to Jerry Dias, national president of Unifor.

***Unifor vows to keep a close eye on the Ontario Liberals over the next four years.***



**Kathleen Wynne & Jerry Dias**

Wynne delivered many welcome promises for change in her throne speech on July 3, something the union will push through to fruition. “During the election campaign, Kathleen Wynne repeatedly expressed her belief that government can be a force of good — and Unifor will continue to push the Liberals hard to ensure they lead Ontario towards prosperity,” Dias said.

The Liberal budget — the very same plan that triggered the June election after being shot down by the Progressive Conservatives and NDP — aims to eliminate the \$12.5 billion deficit by 2018. Of note for labour groups is the Liberal’s plan to protect and strengthen workers’ rights, create good jobs and rejuvenate a much-beleaguered manufacturing sector.

One of the budget’s major components is the hotly-contested Ontario Retirement Pension Plan (ORPP), which will be available to people who do not already have a retirement program at their workplace. Prompted after the federal government balked on Canada Pension Plan reforms, the ORPP will see employers matching up to 1.9 per cent of contributions to their employee’s nest eggs. “No one should be left guessing whether or not they’ll be able to afford groceries in retirement,” Dias said.

***“Unifor will continue to push the Liberals hard to ensure they lead Ontario towards prosperity.”***

Many union leaders backed the Liberal agenda or condemned the alternatives during the June election. That included the unprecedented and hotly-contested move by Unifor 87-M, the union that represents media staff and journalists, to endorse anybody but then-leader of the Progressive Conservatives, Tim Hudak.

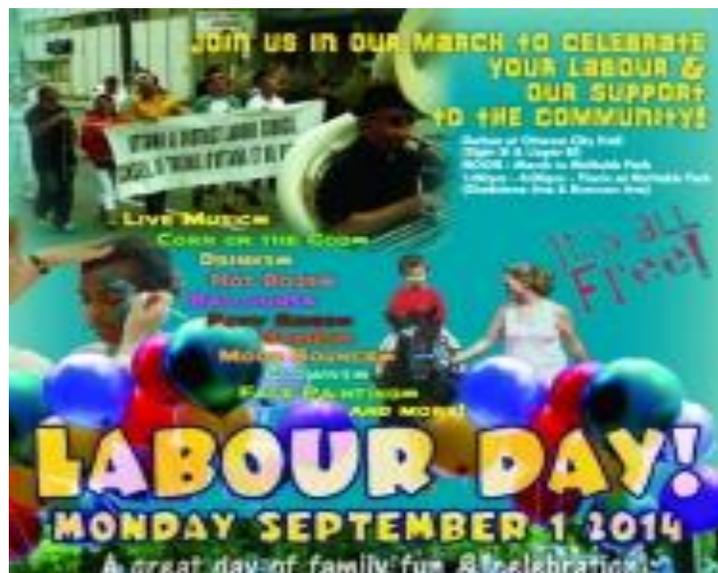
## Labour Day

Join us in our march to celebrate your labour and our support to the community!

Gather at Ottawa City Hall (Elgin St & Lisgar St)  
Monday, September 1<sup>st</sup>, NOON - March to McNabb Park  
1-4pm - Picnic at McNabb Park (Gladstone Ave & Bronson Ave)

Live Music - Corn on the Cob - Drinks - Hot Dogs - Balloons - Pony Rides - Games - Moon Bounce - Clowns - Face Painting - AND MORE!

A great day of family fun & celebration for everyone. It's all free! Event takes place rain or shine.  
For more information call the Ottawa & District Labour Council: 613-233-7820



## Local Steward / Health & Safety Elections



Elections were held on June 5<sup>th</sup> to elect local stewards and a health & safety committee member to represent the agents in the BIMS BRS group that sits on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> floors at 160 Elgin in Ottawa.

Three new stewards were elected to represent the day shift: **Jean Bernard, Philippe Cadieux and Linda Murray**

Four new stewards were elected to represent the members working the evening shift: **Tanbir Ahmed, Martin Chantigny, Chirine Refai and Wallis Stevens**

**Patricia Martin** was also elected as the health & safety representative and joined the joint Bell committee in June.

We thank them all the nominees for their involvement.

# Pension News



## *The Canadian Labour Congress called on the Federal government to move forward not backwards on retirement security*

The President of the Canadian Labour Congress says that the labour movement in Canada has clearly and forcefully told the federal government that it has no business encouraging employers to tear up past pension promises and cut seniors' pensions.

"Don't be fooled by anything the government says about this initiative. It's about attacking defined-benefit pension plans, pure and simple. If the government thinks the labour movement is going to stand idly by and watch employers tear up retirees' pension cheques, they've got another thing coming," said Hassan Yussuff.

Yussuff was commenting on the federal government's consultation on a framework for converting defined-benefit pensions to target-benefit plans in the federal private sector and for Crown corporations. The proposed framework would involve workers paying more for reduced and less secure benefits. It would also allow once-secure pension benefits, earned for past service, to be reduced if the plan suffers a shortfall. On Wednesday, the Department of Finance hastily declared the end to consultations on the initiative.

Yussuff went on to say, "The government's proposed plans don't 'share risk', they shift it onto the backs of workers and pensioners. This will do absolutely nothing to address the crisis in retirement security, and will actually make the problem worse.

Jerry Dias has also made a submission to the Department of Finance on behalf of Unifor. Here are some highlights:

☒ Pension coverage and adequacy are in serious decline for Canadians. The federal framework for Target Benefit Plans (TBPs) will worsen the situation. Employers without pension plans will not establish TBPs. Employers with Defined Contribution (DC) plans will not convert to TBPs. The real danger is that employers with Defined Benefit (DB) plans will convert to TBPs – and not just on a “go forward” basis. The framework will allow all accrued DB pensions to be converted to the more risky TBPs. The promised DB pensions for current plan members and pensioners could be subject to cuts.

☒ Many DB plans were negotiated between the employer and the union during collective bargaining. In some years, union members agreed to wage freezes in order to maintain their pension benefits. The conversion of DB plans to TBPs undermines collective bargaining and overlooks many of the sacrifices made to secure and maintain DB plans.

☒ Employers will be keen to convert DB plans to TBPs. This would be short-sighted. If we consider Air Canada as an example, in the last round of talks, Unifor fought hard to hold on to the DB plan for our members. There was tremendous pressure to convert to a DC plan. Today our members and retirees at Air Canada have a DB plan that is currently in a modest surplus position.

☒ An enhanced Canada Pension Plan is the best way to improve coverage and adequacy. The Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) has recommended a modest and gradual approach to increasing CPP contributions, which would allow for a doubling of future CPP benefits. The federal government should agree to expand the CPP.

☒ Unifor recommends that the federal government:

- Withdraw the federal framework for target benefit plans.
- Foster incentives for employers without workplace pension plans or inadequate DC plans to join multi-employer pension plans (MEPPs).
- Expand the Canada Pension Plan as the CLC has proposed.

The complete submission can be found at the following link on our Local 6004 web site :

<https://static.squarespace.com/static/52829284e4b0742b647a44d0/t/53bc325fe4b068577d606a34/1404842591024/Unifor%20Submission%20to%20the%20Department%20of%20Finance%20on%20Target%20Benefit%20Pension%20Plans.pdf>

## Local 6004 News

### Good & Wellness

The Good & Wellness committee is always looking for ways to assist members. Whether it be through a happy announcement such as a birth, wedding or other notable achievement, or a death of a family or union member or any other way a member in need may require assistance.

If you or a member you know is in need of assistance from this committee please feel free to contact any of the committee members or send an email to the address below.

[goodandwellness@unifor6004.ca](mailto:goodandwellness@unifor6004.ca)

### Upcoming Dates

- Unifor Women's Conference*.....August 10-14<sup>th</sup>
- Bell Health & Safety Meeting*.....August 19<sup>th</sup>
- Labour Day Event*.....Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>
- Joint Labour Relations Meeting*.....Sept. 3-4<sup>th</sup>
- Unifor Canada Council*.....Sept. 12-16<sup>th</sup>

## Contact Information

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### Local Health & Safety Committees

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