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Unifor members and allies rallied outside the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in downtown Toronto, holding Parallel People's Trade Hearings while the federal committee looking into the TPP met inside.

Canada should rethink approach to trade

The Trans-Pacific Partnership would cause job losses, gives too much power to corporations and should not be ratified, Unifor Local 444 President Dino Chiodo told hearings into the deal.

"Ultimately, Canada needs to rethink its general approach to trade. Rejecting the TPP might help kick-start this discussion, and that's not a bad thing," Chiodo told the hearings is they passed through Windsor.

"A principled and fair trade framework could provide us a new lens to explore trade enhancement - in a manner that's intentionally transparent, collaborative, that's mutually beneficial and strives to raise standards for all workers and citizens across nations."

Quebec Council focuses on climate, jobs

Nearly 400 delegates took part in Unifor's Quebec Council, held in Trois-Rivières from May 4 to 6. Among the highlights of the event were workshops on climate change and the urgent transformations necessary in order to protect

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Rally hears about the many threats from TPP

As the federal hearings into the Trans-Pacific Partnership came through Toronto, stopping at a luxury hotel downtown, activists from across Canadian society gathered outside to let the politicians know how the deal would hurt them.

"Our heritage is at stake, and our jobs are at stake," Unifor Local 79-M President Jake Moore told the crowd

at the Unifor-organized rally.

Moore, whose local represents media workers at CTV, Bell TV and other outlets, said the TPP would restrict the right of Canadian governments to set Canadian content rules or keep foreign investors from buying this country's media companies.

Tim Deelstra from

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Convention 2016 updates

Deadlines for this summer's national convention are fast approaching – especially for any locals hoping to submit a resolution.

Resolutions and Constitutional amendments must be approved by your local union and submitted to the National Secretary-Treasurer May 22, in order to be approved and on the agenda at convention.

Unifor holds its second Convention August 22 – 26 at Shaw Centre in Ottawa. Until then, watch this space in your national newsletter for updates on what is planned, and for pending deadlines.

- Registration deadline is July 22.
 - The Convention convenes August 22 and is expected to conclude by noon August 26.
 - Industry Councils will be held August 21.
 - A new delegate's orientation will be held the evening of August 21.
- For details, go to unifor.org/events



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Reach us at:

Uniforum

Unifor Communications
205 Placer Court, Fifth Floor
Toronto, Ontario, M5H 3H9

1-800-268-5763

communications@unifor.org

www.unifor.org

Health care workers discuss future of health care at biannual conference

More than 200 health care workers from Ontario and Nova Scotia gathered in Port Elgin for the biannual Health Care Conference to discuss a range of topics that affect their daily lives.

Along with workshops to develop skills in lobbying, member engagement, and campaign communication, a lineup of guest speakers addressed the work that Unifor members do and the impact it's having.

"The work you do defending universal health care is an example to other people across the Americas of what we can do when we come together. You give hope to smaller unions," said Alan Sable, Regional Director of

UNICARE Americas. "What Canada has and what you continue to fight for is a dream for so many in South America."

Other speakers addressed the impact of being a professional caregiver and provided insight and resources for stressed, compassion fatigued and

workers struggling with PTSD.

For more information about the conference, the work Unifor is doing to protect public health care and our current campaign to demand a new Health Accord, sign up for Unifor's health care newsletter, The Pulse at www.unifor.org/newsletters.



Delegates to Unifor Health Conference came away determined to stand up for public healthcare.

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our planet.

Robert Beauregard, a professor and Dean of the Faculty of Forestry, Geography and Geomatics at Laval University, addressed what actions can be taken to ensure climate change measures have a positive impact on jobs and the economy.

Workshops revealed the concerns shared by many members, particularly in the forestry industry, but they also underscored the positive outlook of other members who have benefited from the move toward greener practices, such as in the aerospace sector.

Renaud Gagné, re-elected to the position of Quebec Director, called



The Quebec Council delegation took part in a demonstration to show its support for Local 1209 members at Delastek, who have been on strike for more than a year.

for the mobilization of members at a time when more and more campaigns are being launched.

"It is essential to encourage our rank-and-file members to get involved and respond to our appeals. To do that, we have to reach out to them directly

and talk to them," he said.

Jerry Dias addressed some of the pressing issues of the day.

The council donated more than \$5,000 to Fort McMurray relief, and Gagné asked locals to donate one dollar for each member.

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Chiodo noted that the deal provides for eliminating auto tariffs in Canada over six years, while similar tariffs in the U.S. would be eliminated over 25 years. That, he said, will cost thousands of jobs in Windsor and across Ontario.

"These rules will simply encourage automakers to explore new sourcing arrangements from lower-wage jurisdictions," he said.

"The TPP offers no benefit to Canada's auto industry. We've seen what bad trade policy can do to our jobs, and we don't need more of it."

Provisions in the deal, known as the Investor State Dispute Settlement system,

would allow corporations to sue governments for passing laws that hurt their profits, even if those laws are in the public interest. There is no provision, however, for corporations to be sued for violating labour or environmental rules.

Canada is already the most sued country under such provisions in other trade pacts, Chiodo said, and the TPP promises more of the same. Just last week, U.S. company Windstream Energy launched a \$475-million lawsuit under NAFTA, after Ontario cancelled a series of wind farm projects in 2011.

"This is a deal we simply cannot accept. The potential damage this will bring to the Windsor community in the long-term is severe," Chiodo said.



Unifor Local 444 President Dino Chiodo, right, meets with Essex NDP MP Tracey Ramsey and Matt Marchand from the Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce during a break at the TPP hearings in Windsor.

Outside the Windsor hearings, more than 150 people gathered to urge the new Liberal government not to ratify the deal.

"We are demanding that the Liberals come clean and

listen to Canadians," said Unifor Local 200 President Chris Taylor.

For more information on the TPP, go to unifor.org/tpp.

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the United Food and Commercial Workers union told the crowd the TPP is the latest in a generation of trade deals that make it possible for big companies to move operations overseas.

"If we keep signing deals like this, we'll have nothing left," he said.

Council of Canadians health campaigner Michael Butler called the TPP "bad medicine" because it will prevent Canada from setting up a much-needed pharmacare program, which many Canadians want.

Participants were urged to sign an online petition by Open Media, supported by Unifor, to let the federal government know they do not support the TPP.

Brittany Smith, a Campaigner at Lead Now, said one of the biggest threats from the TPP is its Investor State Disputes Settlement mechanism, which allows companies to sue countries if they pass laws that hurt their profits – even if those laws are in the public interest.

"The TPP is not a trade deal. The TPP is about changing the rules of the global economy in ways that help large corporations and hurt the rest of us."

Unifor Ontario Regional Director Katha Fortier said the TPP will not help ordinary Canadians.

"The government of Canada's first priority is to the people of Canada," she said. "We want a country that builds. We want a country that puts people first."

Unifor moves quickly to help Fort McMurray evacuees

It didn't take long for Unifor to spring into action to help members displaced by the Fort McMurray wildfires.

As soon as early evacuation orders were announced, the Alberta regional office began gathering information volunteered by Edmonton-area Unifor members to coordinate emergency housing for evacuated members.

As conditions worsened and all of Fort McMurray was evacuated, Unifor contacted the Canadian Red Cross to make an initial donation of \$500,000 for relief efforts and partnered to create a web portal at redcross.ca/unifor for Unifor

members across Canada to donate.

"Our members in Fort McMurray fled the fire zone with their families and little else. Many have lost their houses to the flames and thousands of them remain without access to their homes," said Jerry Dias, Unifor National President.

Tens of thousands of dollars were also donated by the BC, Prairie, Ontario, Quebec, and Atlantic regional councils.

Dias emphasized that relief efforts will take months, maybe years, and that Unifor will be unwavering in its commitment to members and the re-building project.



Forum hears need for auto strategy to keep the industry strong in Canada

Canada will have a strong auto industry for years to come - but achieving that won't be easy and means getting all sides working together to build a real auto investment strategy, Unifor National President Jerry Dias told an auto forum and panel discussion in Windsor recently.

"We will be aggressive, we will be assertive, we will be all the things the panelists said we need to be," Dias said in an address to the forum.

The Policy and Solutions Forum was organized by Unifor Local 444 to bring labour, industry and

academia together to discuss what is needed for an effective auto strategy in Canada to attract investment.

"We will work collaboratively to make sure those investments are made," Dias told the crowd of more than 250 local business people, labour leaders, politicians and academics.

Dias said that with labour, industry and government working together to bring more auto investments to Canada, including commitments made in bargaining to new products by the Detroit Three

IN THIS ISSUE Canada needs to rethink its approach to trade deals, federal hearings in the TPP are told as rallies are held in Windsor and Toronto by Unifor and its allies. Quebec Council meets and shows great solidarity. Health Conference delegates are invigorated. Helping Fort McMurray evacuees.



Unifor Local 444 sponsored an Auto Policy Forum in Windsor recently that brought together labour, business and academia to discuss the future of the industry in Canada.

auto makers, Canada will continue to have a strong auto industry.

Panelists agreed that Canada needs a focused strategy that combines incentives with infrastructure, support for research into innovations on the next generation of

autos, training for workers, and more.

"There is happy little bubble over Windsor or Ontario that protects us from the rest of the world," said Peter Frise, Scientific Director and CEO of the Auto21 Network of Centres of Excellence.