

DECEMBER 15, 2023

UNIFORUM 506

Quarterly Newsletter for Members of Unifor Local 506



WHAT'S NEW AT UNIFOR 506:

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- Humanity Project
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- Dec 6th National Day of Remembrance
- Women's Committee

HOLIDAY MESSAGE

2023 has been another year full of challenges as the cost of living has increased due to rising food and gas prices. As a gesture of appreciation and to spread joy during this season of giving, we have decided to send Sobeys gift cards to our members once again this year. As we approach the end of another year, we want to express our gratitude for the continued support of our members!

If you have moved recently or changed your phone numbers/email address, please contact the union office at 506-634-8810 or unionoffice@unifor506.ca with your updated contact information.

The Local 506 Executive and staff extend our warmest wishes to you and your loved ones this holiday season and hope that the New Year brings joy, good health and prosperity. Happy Holidays!

ANTI-SCAB LEGISLATION

On November 9th, the federal government tabled anti-scab legislation. This marked a significant victory for Canadian workers as this legislation ensures workers' right to strike without the threat of employers using scab labour to needlessly extend labour disputes or attempt to starve workers out.

Once the proposed legislation works its way through the House and the Senate, employers can no longer employ scabs during strikes and lockouts in federally regulated workplaces.



The proposed legislation comes after Unifor, and other labour organizations, fiercely advocated for the Liberal government to make good on its promise to ban the use of replacement workers. Unifor will closely monitor the evolution of Bill 58 through Parliament to make sure this law is the strongest it can be and it is implemented as quickly as possible.



“Working people and unions have organized and fought for this moment for decades,” said Unifor National President, Lana Payne. “Generations of workers have stood courageously on picket lines in this country defending their right to strike and to fair and free collective bargaining. Some have paid a hefty price. This legislation is for all those workers who never gave up. When we organize. We win.”

For our union’s nearly 70,000 members working in the federally regulated private sector, including in telecommunications, road, rail, air and marine transportation, aviation, broadcast media, among others, this was a big win and a long time coming.



This will level the playing field. It will allow for free and fair collective bargaining. And next we will fight for such laws in every provincial jurisdiction in the country.

HUMANITY PROJECT



Unifor members from across the Maritimes volunteered to help build twenty tiny homes for The Humanity Project. This initiative was founded by Charlie Burrell whose goal is to shelter unhoused people and support those dealing with mental illness and addiction in the Moncton area.



Atlantic Regional Director, Jennifer Murray, was one of the volunteers and remarked that “The work that our members did for the Humanity Project has inspired a country and a labour movement. We have had people reach out from all over the country to tell us what they are doing to make a difference as not every region has a Humanity Project”.

Tim Murray (pictured below), a 506 Region 2 member, was one of the workers on the tiny homes site. His efforts were supported by Local 506, who covered his wages while he volunteered his time and skills to the project.



LOCAL 506 RACIAL JUSTICE ADVOCATE



Left to Right: Stéphane Lamoureux, Anthony Williams and Sandy Brideau.

Interviews for the Racial Justice Advocate role were held in November and Anthony Williams of Moncton was the successful candidate.

Unifor was instrumental in negotiating new language in our collective agreement that advances the vital work of the Racial Justice Advocate.



This new position will be responsible for addressing issues related to racism, discrimination, and bias within the workplace. The Racial Justice Advocate will work closely with employees and management to develop policies and practices that promote equity, diversity, and inclusion. They will also work to create a safe and welcoming environment for all employees.

Local 506 would like to thank Tricia Brown, Unifor National Representative from the Human Rights Department, and Gina Smoke, Unifor Indigenous Relations, for their valuable assistance with the interview process.

Their contributions were instrumental in ensuring that we were able to identify candidates who not only met the qualifications for the position, but also embodied our commitment to diversity and inclusion.



Members can reach out to Anthony at anthony.williams@unifor506.ca for assistance.

REMINDER

If you have a question, an issue you need to discuss, a safety concern, require personal support, or wish to have a union representative at a meeting with the company, please contact us at 506-634-8810 or unionoffice@unifor506.ca

NEW MEMBERS

Local 506 welcomes the following new members!

- Ayden McCaustlin - Region 1
- David Albert - Region 4
- Frank Mazerolle - Region 4
- Cameron Gray - Region 1
- Mike Pittman - Region 1



LOCAL 506 ELECTION RESULTS

The Election Committee announced the vote results for the election of the Vice President of Local 506 on November 1st.

Stéphane Lamoureux was the successful candidate and will be sworn in at the December Executive board meeting.




Local 506 would like to thank the membership for their participation in the 2023 election.

CONTEST WINNERS

In the October edition of the Unifor 506 newsletter, we challenged members to find a hidden Unifor logo. Two members were successful in finding the logo; congratulations to Jill Davis LeBlanc and Angela Davis, winners of a \$50 Sobeys gift card!



Another Unifor logo  is hidden in this newsletter. Find it and send the location to unionoffice@unifor506.ca and we'll put your name in a draw for a \$50 Sobeys gift card!

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ISSUE PROPOSALS



The voices of our members are of utmost importance to us. Traditionally, we reach out to our members six months prior to the expiration of the current collective agreement to request bargaining proposals. However, we recognize that our members' issues and needs are not bound by timelines. We want to create an open and ongoing dialogue that allows our members to share their concerns and ideas at any time.



Whether your concerns are immediate or long-term we encourage you to come forward and make your voice heard. Your input is invaluable in shaping the direction and priorities of our union's bargaining efforts.

Please take this opportunity to engage with us, share your concerns, and help shape the collective bargaining agenda. Your active participation is vital to our success as a union! [Click here](#) for an Issue Proposal form or send an email to unionoffice@unifor506.ca.

506 TRUSTEE COMMITTEE

The Local 506 Trustee Committee met on October 23-24th and again on November 27-29th to review the financial records of the local and ensure we are compliant with our Bylaws and Policies.



Their efforts are crucial in ensuring the transparency and accountability of our local. The committee's thorough review of our financial records is an important part of our ongoing efforts to maintain the trust and confidence of our members. We look forward to continuing to work with the committee to ensure that the Local 506 continues to be a financially sound and responsible organization.



Left to Right: Judy Mercer, Donovan Richard and Stephen Maynard.

Many thanks to the Committee for their hard work and dedication!

REGION 4 SOCIAL ATV RUN

Fifteen Region 4 members got together on October 28th for an 80 km ATV run on the old army range in Tracadie.

Good food and good times were enjoyed by all and they are looking forward to another run in the future.



Left to Right - Nicolas Pitre, Martin Hébert, Stéphane Frenette, Sandy Brideau, Guy Haché, Yannic St-Pierre, Mathieu Duguay, Serge Roy, Steve Wilmot with Alain Ouellette taking the photo.

UNION ACTIVISM SURVEY

Local 506 members are invited to take part in a research study entitled “Work, Workers, and Unions through COVID-19 and Beyond”.



This study is being launched by Dr. Chris Smith, professor/researcher in the faculty of business at UNB Saint John, which aims to study workers’ views on working conditions in the province, attitudes towards and participation in their union, the role of unions in society, and what, if any impact the COVID pandemic has had on any of the above.

You can take the survey in English or French by clicking here (https://unbbusiness.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3xbMaCYl3MKPW6O).

The survey typically takes about 10 to 15 minutes and is best done in one sitting. All New Brunswick locals will have an opportunity to participate to help make worker’s voices heard.



UNIFOR TRANS DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

The Transgender Day of Remembrance, observed on November 20th, is a solemn occasion to remember and honour those who have tragically lost their lives due to ignorance and hatred, targeted solely because of their transgender or gender non-conforming identity.



This year, we have witnessed concerning developments within Canada's political landscape. At a recent Conservative Party convention, 69 percent of delegates voted to restrict young people from accessing essential gender-affirming care. Provincially, Conservative governments in Ontario, New Brunswick, and Saskatchewan have either discussed or implemented policies that jeopardize the rights and well-being of trans kids. These policies perpetuate discrimination and exclusion, placing the lives and dignity of our queer and trans community members in peril.



In our workplaces and at the bargaining table, it is incumbent upon workers to provide year-round support to our trans members. This includes negotiating for gender-neutral washrooms, gender-inclusive personal protective equipment (PPE) and uniforms, healthcare access protection to ensure essential healthcare services are available to all, and other essential bargaining priorities to welcome and support our trans members.



The fight for safety and equity for trans and non-binary individuals is far from being won. As we mourn the lives tragically lost, we stand in solidarity with our trans members and their families as they pursue lives characterized by dignity, safety, and freedom.

NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE AND ACTION ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

On December 6th we commemorate the National Day of of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women.

It has now been 34 years since the tragic murders of 14 young women at L'Université de Montréal's École Polytechnique. These women lost their bright lives and futures in the span of 20 minutes at the hand of someone who openly declared his misogyny. We also mourn Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, and all who have lost their lives to femicide and violence.



The National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women serves as a powerful reminder that addressing gender-based violence requires collective effort and ongoing commitment. By remembering the past, raising awareness, and taking action, communities can work together to create a safer and more equitable society for all.



unifor.org/women

This year's theme is *Take Action End Violence Against Women*. As a union, we make workplaces safe through collective bargaining language, and we must continue to push for better. One of the resources we have bargained for is the appointment of our Women's Advocate, Erin Howell Sharpe. Women's Advocates are one of the support systems Unifor has pioneered to ensure there is someone to turn to at work when home is not safe. To contact the Local 506 Women's Advocate, please reach out to Erin at erin.howellsharpe@unifor506.ca.

As Unifor members and leaders, we heed the call to increase our activism to ensure feminist voices are at every table influencing policy decisions that impact our lives. Together we will continue to push for safe workplaces and homes for all women and girls.

LOCAL 506 WOMEN'S COMMITTEE

This year the Local 506 Women's Committee along with Jane Ryan from Local 601N and Morgan Palmer and Tamara Davidson-Kelly from Local 2002 collected enough purses and toiletries to donate 126 purses for the Purse Project!

The purses were dropped off at CPC Ignite where they will be distributed to women at risk in the Saint John community.



The Women's Committee is also currently working on two other campaigns; Code Red which distributes period products to local organizations for homeless and marginalized women and the annual pajama donation to the Coverdale Centre women's shelter.



Many thanks to the Local 506 members who donated purses, snacks, hygiene items, lip balms and gift cards this year; especially Angela Davis, Yvonne Fox, and retirees Lisa Martin and Chris & Diane Hewitt! And special thanks to Kat Magarvey, Gary Stackhouse and Brenda Pacitto who helped pack the purses.

Local 506 has an active Women's Committee and welcomes any members who would like to participate and be engaged - especially in Region 3 (Fredericton and Woodstock) and Region 4 (A Pen, Bathurst, Campbellton, Edmundston & Miramichi).

If you are interested in joining the Local 506 Women's Committee or would like to make a donation to one of their campaigns, please contact Women's Committee Chair, Angela Davis at angela.davis@unifor506.ca.