

JUNE 28, 2024

UNIFORUM 506

Quarterly Newsletter for Members of Unifor Local 506



WHAT'S NEW AT UNIFOR 506:

- Atlantic Regional Council
- Anti-Scab Legislation Passed
- Day of Mourning
- Election Training
- Retirements
- Issue Proposals
- New Members
- Contest Winners
- Health & Safety Training
- Women's Strike June 24th
- NB Coalition for Pay Equity Forum

Local 506 delegates attended the 2024 Atlantic Regional Council in Halifax June 10-12th.

Atlantic Regional Director, Jennifer Murray, delivered the opening address, emphasizing the importance of unity and resilience in the face of challenges.

National Secretary-Treasurer Len Poirier briefed delegates on the leadership team's strategy in addressing Bell Canada's disrespectful treatment of its employees.

The Council approved the Regional Director's recommendations to prioritize health and safety education and training, fight for anti-scab legislation, mobilize members to vote in the upcoming New Brunswick election, and to grow Unifor in the Atlantic region by supporting organizing efforts.

ANTI-SCAB LEGISLATION PASSED!

Unifor is celebrating the passage of anti-scab legislation after Bill C-58 was adopted by the Senate at third reading without amendment.

Last week, Lana Payne, the Unifor National President, spoke before the Senate Committee about the critical necessity of anti-scab legislation. Payne presented examples where the employment of scabs infringed upon workers' rights and contributed to prolonging labor disputes within Unifor workplaces.



“This is a watershed moment for Canadians workers as after more than a century of struggle legislation will finally prevent the use of scabs in federally governed workplaces,” said Unifor National President Lana Payne. “now Unifor will continue the fight to enact strong and meaningful anti-scab legislation in every province and territory to ensure that the bargaining power of all workers across the country is protected.”

“While we believe there was room for further improvement to Bill C-58, especially the twelve-month period until anti-scab legislation actually comes into effect, today is a victory and it’s one we are going to protect,” said Payne. “The anti-scab legislation received all party support and we fully expect that support to continue as it rolls out.”



Unifor has been leading the fight against the use of scab labor, a practice that enables employers to weaken the free and fair collective bargaining process. The union strongly supports Bill C-58, also known as anti-scab legislation, which aims to amend the Canada Labour Code.



DAY OF MOURNING

Unifor Local 506 Secretary-Treasurer, Carlos Vicente, laid a wreath at the April 28th Day of Mourning ceremony in Saint John to honor and pay tribute to the lives lost in workplace accidents or as a result of occupational illnesses.



Local 506 acknowledges the profound impact that workplace tragedies have on families and communities. The Day of Mourning ceremonies serve as a moment to reflect on the sacrifices made by workers, ensuring their memories are honored and their voices heard. Unifor is committed to promoting and advocating for safe working conditions and dedicated to preventing workplace accidents, injuries and fatalities.

ELECTION TRAINING

Region 3 Chair, Adam Costain and Local 506 Women's Advocate, Erin Howell Sharpe attended election training in Saint John recently to prepare for the upcoming provincial election.



RETIREMENTS

Best wishes to the following members who have retired recently:

- Gloria Belbin - Region 1
- Ronald Dann - Region 1

The Local gives retiring members a \$150 gift to celebrate this milestone. If you are retiring in the near future, please contact the union office at unionoffice@unifor506.ca to ensure we have your current mailing address, phone and email information.



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.

NEW MEMBERS

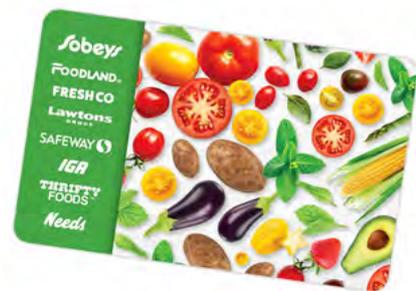
Local 506 welcomes the following new members!

- Chris Monteith - Region 3
- Salvador Sanchez Pena - Region 3
- Ethan Milne - Region 1
- Anders Good - Region 2
- Connor Griffin - Region 1
- Olivia Stewart - Region 1
- Sebastian Totten - Region 3
- Olivia Hachey - Region 4
- Nicolas Jones-Balzer - Region 2

Welcome!

CONTEST WINNERS

In the April edition of the Uniforum 506 newsletter, we challenged members to find a hidden Unifor logo. Two members were successful in finding the logo; congratulations to Christian Mallet and Erin Knighton Rowan, 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!

HEALTH & SAFETY TRAINING



Left to Right - Nathan Gregg, André Doucette, Tammy Lewis, Pierre Levesque and Stéphane Lamoureux

Safety representatives from Local 506 attended the recent three-day Unifor *Health & Safety: Beyond the Basics* training at the Saint John Unifor office.

The attendees discussed the factors leading to hazardous working conditions and potential solutions for workers. They also learned about regulations and legislation mandated by the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

Throughout the session, participants discussed ways to identify and address unsafe working conditions that members face in the workplace.

The session concluded with a collaborative brainstorming activity, where participants proposed innovative solutions to create a safer, more inclusive work environment where everyone feels protected and valued.



The course covered insights on Behavior-Based Safety programs and highlighted Unifor's reservations regarding these systems that tend to shift blame onto workers, a trend that unfortunately, many employers are embracing.

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

WOMEN'S STRIKE

Local 506 Women's Committee members along with Atlantic Regional Director, Jennifer Murray, participated in the Women's Strike on June 24th in Saint John.



The overturning of Roe v. Wade in the U.S prompted Unifor to launch a national campaign in 2023 which culminated in a women's strike in solidarity with American sisters.

Recently, concerns arose over anti-choice legislation introduced by Conservative MP Cathay Wagantall, which lead to a women's strike in Canada on June 24, 2024, to support global efforts for women's rights.



Left to Right - Angela Davis, Kevin Suttie, Erin Howell Sharpe, Tammy Lewis, and Jennifer Murray

NB COALITION FOR PAY EQUITY FORUM

Local 506 Women's Advocate, Erin Howell Sharpe and Atlantic Regional Director, Jennifer Murray attended the NB Coalition for Pay Equity Forum in Moncton on June 1st. Erin spoke as a panelist on behalf of Unifor and the federal sector.



Panelists discussed the importance of having good wording in legislation for pay equity. With the looming provincial election, it is important to discuss these issues with the candidates to ensure fair working conditions and equitable pay. We need to talk to provincial and federal representatives to ensure we have proper legislation covering true pay equity and bridge the gender pay gap.

At the conclusion of the forum, participants left with a renewed commitment to advocating for pay equity; armed with new strategies, and a strengthened network of allies.