

# UNIFORM 506

Quarterly Newsletter for Members of Unifor Local 506



## WHAT'S NEW AT UNIFOR 506:

- Orange Shirt Day Sept 30th
- Scholarship Winners
- Pride Committee
- Retirements / New Members
- Issue Proposals
- Contest Winners
- Emancipation Day
- Local 506 Election
- Women's Committee
- Pay Equity Update
- New Brunswick Election
- Women's Conference
- Canadian Council

## NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION - SEPT 30TH

Each year, September 30 marks the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, also known as Orange Shirt Day. This day honours the children who never returned home and survivors of residential schools, as well as their families and communities.

Unifor members have long organized for justice on Orange Shirt Day. The ongoing discovery of remains of missing children on the sites of former residential schools confirm what Indigenous communities have said for decades—thousands of children went to the school and never returned home. It is a reminder of the scale of colonial violence that still haunts survivors and their families today. **Continued on Page 2...**

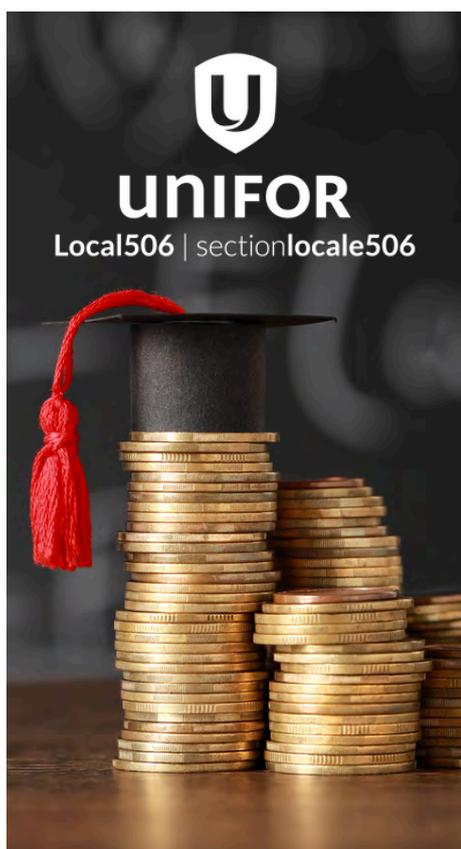
# NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH & RECONCILIATION



Orange Shirt Day is an Indigenous-led commemorative day to raise awareness of the individual, family and community inter-generational impacts of residential schools, and to promote the concept of “Every Child Matters”. The orange shirt is a symbol of the stripping away of culture, freedom and self-esteem experienced by Indigenous children over generations. Reconciliation is not possible until Every Child Matters.



## LOCAL 506 BURSARY AND SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



Congratulations to Brooklyn Feicht, winner of the 2024 Truth & Reconciliation Scholarship; Miguel Cormier Deveau, winner of the 2024 Day of Remembrance Scholarship; and Coralie Dube-Lavoie, winner of the 2024 Women in Leadership Bursary!



Thank you to all the students who submitted applications for the 2024 Local 506 Bursaries and Scholarships. We welcome your applications for next year’s bursary and scholarship awards!

# PRIDE COMMITTEE



Unifor members proudly participated in Pride parades this summer in Saint John and Moncton, showcasing their solidarity and support for the LGBTQ+ community while celebrating diversity, inclusivity, and acceptance.



Unifor is dedicated to advocating for all our members and fostering safer, more equitable workplaces for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (2SLGBTQIA+) union members.

# RETIREMENTS

Best wishes to the following members who have retired recently:

- Dianne Melanson - Region 2
- Roderick Cross - Region 3

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](mailto:unionoffice@unifor506.ca) to ensure we have your current mailing address, phone and email information.



## 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](mailto:unionoffice@unifor506.ca)

# 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](mailto:unionoffice@unifor506.ca).

# NEW MEMBERS

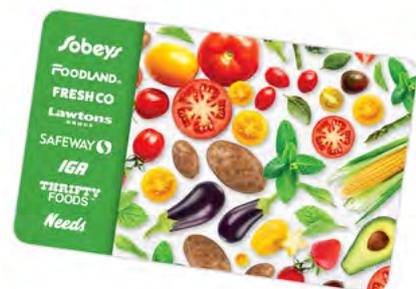
Local 506 welcomes the following new members!

- Josh Howe - Region 3
- Adil Boukasse - Region 3
- James Saunders - Region 4
- Marc-Hervé Losier - Region 4
- Mirielle Loubert - Region 2
- Guillaume Grandisson - Region 4
- Francis Chiasson - Region 4



# CONTEST WINNERS

In the June 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 Brenda Cormier and Raymond Boucher, 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](mailto:unionoffice@unifor506.ca) and we'll put your name in a draw for a \$50 Sobeys gift card!

# EMANCIPATION DAY - AUGUST 1ST

On August 1st, Unifor took time to reflect on the measures we've implemented to foster racial justice in the workplace and to eliminate all forms of harassment and discrimination.

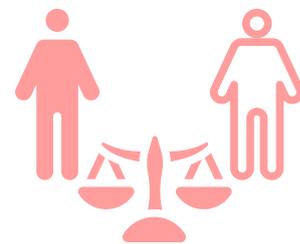


Our work is far from over. Unifor will continue to bargain, advocate, and support work to eradicate racism in the workplace and our communities. We are committed to learning about and highlighting the contributions of Black and Indigenous peoples – contributions that must be recognized and celebrated.



Local 506 Racial Justice Advocate - Anthony Williams

Within our union, that means providing education and training, electing Black and Indigenous people into leadership roles at all levels, deepening our anti-discrimination work, and bargaining equity programs that support the hiring, retention and advancement of Black and Indigenous peoples, and Workers of Colour.

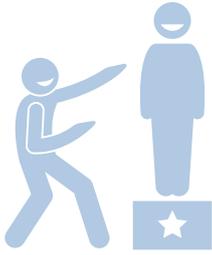


To mark this year's Emancipation Day, Unifor has designed a new fan, poster, and social media graphic to send the important message that racial justice is an everyday fight. And part of the fight is creating community and solidarity.

We must also remain vigilant in examining our own attitudes, beliefs and understandings, and expanding our solidarity with social justice movements that are actively working to dismantle racism. **Local 506 members can reach out to your Racial Justice Advocate at [anthony.williams@unifor506.ca](mailto:anthony.williams@unifor506.ca).**

## LOCAL 506 ELECTION

At the September Sub-Local union meetings, there was one nomination for the role of Secretary-Treasurer.



The sole nominee, Carlos Vicente, accepted the nomination at the Sept 17th Saint John union meeting and by acclamation will assume the role of Secretary-Treasurer. Carlos will be sworn in at the December Executive Board meeting.

## WOMEN'S COMMITTEE

The Local 506 Women's Committee is currently collecting purses and toiletries for the upcoming Purse Project campaign in November. If you would like to donate items, please contact the Women's Committee Chair, Angela Davis, at [angela.davis@unifor506.ca](mailto:angela.davis@unifor506.ca).



Local 506 has an active Women's Committee and welcomes any members who would like to participate and be engaged! If you are interested in joining, please contact us at [unionoffice@unifor506.ca](mailto:unionoffice@unifor506.ca).

## PAY EQUITY UPDATE

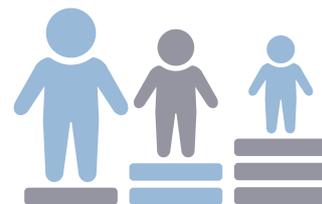
Earlier this month a message was posted by the company on Bell Net updating members on the status of the Pay Equity exercise taking place at Bell Canada.

This exercise was to be completed by September 4, 2024. However, given that this process is complex and deals with over 11,000 Bell employees covered by 8 different collective agreements in 4 different operations, delays were somewhat expected.



In August the company did signify their interest in extending the task in order to complete it. Naturally, your union representatives on the committee did not object, as it will give us more time to complete our mandate thoroughly to the benefit of our members.

On Friday, September 6, we were informed by the Pay Equity Commissioner that a one-time extension was granted with a new end date of August 31, 2025.



It is important to note that should this undertaking result in an increase in pay for some of our members, this increase will be retroactively applied with interest back to September 4, 2024.

# NEW BRUNSWICK ELECTION

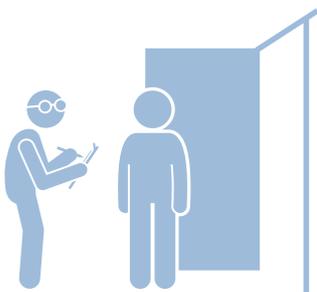


Front L-R: Erin Harrison, Jody Dallaire, Stéphane  
Back L-R: Bill Kudla, Erin Howell Sharpe & Adam Costain

Local 506 members Adam Costain and Erin Howell Sharpe are working with the Unifor Political Action Committee for the upcoming New Brunswick provincial election on October 21st!

## *Nous sommes prêts! We are ready!*

Members of the Political Action team may be calling you or knocking on your door in the coming weeks to encourage members to vote. Worker's voices are important.



When you engage with these team members, feel free to ask questions and share your concerns – every vote counts, and your voice has the power to drive positive change!

# UNIFOR WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Local 506 Women's Committee Chair Angela Davis, and Local 506 Women's Advocate, Erin Howell Sharpe, attended the 2024 Unifor Women's Conference in Port Elgin August 18-21st.



Unifor National President Lana Payne addressed nearly 400 women present, emphasizing the strong sisterhood within our union.



The diversity of speakers and workshops at the Women's Conference showed delegates both the need for their time, talent and perspectives, but also the places where their action is welcome and needed.

# CANADIAN COUNCIL

Local 506 President, Sandy Brideau and Vice President, Stephane Lamoureux attended the 2024 Canadian Council Sept 27-29/24 as delegates representing our local. Also attending was Region 2 Chair, Leesa Allain as an Equity Delegate and Region 3 Chair, Adam Costain, as a delegate on behalf of the Unifor Atlantic Regional Council where he serves as a member at large.



On the second day of CC2024, delegates reflected on the hope, activism and the collective power of our union. Key discussions focused on legislative successes, local union work to create social and economic justice, and ensuring that workers' voices are heard during upcoming provincial and federal elections.

## Regulating artificial intelligence:

- Lobby for a federal register to document AI use in production and communication.
- Collaborate with employers to develop collective bargaining language for workforce protection.
- Address concerns about job displacement, copyright issues, and automation monitoring.

Local 506 President, Sandy Brideau, supported a resolution regarding the regulation of artificial intelligence. Sandy told delegates at the mic that “Bell and other companies are heavily investing in AI. It is very important that we investigate and have a clear definition of AI's use in our workplace to protect our jobs now and in the future.”



On the closing day of CC2024, delegates wore orange shirts to honour survivors of residential schools. Unifor reaffirmed its commitment to Truth and Reconciliation and is dedicated to education, awareness, and solidarity with Indigenous communities.

