

September 18, 2020



PLEASE POST

COVID – 19 UPDATE 15

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Due to the rapidly changing circumstances surrounding COVID-19 and its impact on workers, program support criteria are subject to change. Be sure to visit www.unifor.org/covid19 to download updated versions of the fact sheets available to our members and their families.

<https://www.unifor.org/en/whats-new/news/unifor-takes-action-labour-day-support-striking-dominion-store-workers>

Unifor takes action on Labour Day in support of striking Dominion store workers



September 7, 2020 - 7:45 PM

In recognition of Labour Day, Unifor members took action in support of Dominion grocery store workers, on strike at Newfoundland locations against parent company Loblaw Companies Limited.



“My message to you Loblaw is that you should be damned ashamed of yourself,” said Unifor National President Jerry Dias outside Loblaw’s flagship grocery store in downtown Toronto. “Galen Weston’s net worth is 8.7 billion dollars. This is an employer that is eliminating full-time jobs so that they don’t have to provide benefits to their workers.”

September 18, 2020



Unifor members held information pickets at Loblaw owned locations across the country, including Vancouver, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Windsor, Kitchener, Port Elgin, Toronto, Sydney, Saint John, Antigonish and multiple locations across Newfoundland including Grand Falls, Gander and St. John's.

The 1,400 Newfoundland Dominion workers have been striking for fair wages and full-time jobs since Saturday August 22, 2020. At the 11 Newfoundland stores, more than 80% of the workers are classified as part-time with Dominion paying 75% of workers less than \$15 an hour.



On day 17 on the picket line Atlantic Regional Director Linda MacNeil warned that billionaire Galen Weston better start listening to his workers.

“They’re here because enough is enough. Workers are telling the employer this has to stop. Loblaw has to stop eliminating full-time jobs. They have to stop manipulating part-time hours to avoid paying pension and benefits,” MacNeil said.

Despite record profits during COVID-19 Loblaw chose to claw back pandemic pay from the frontline workers in June, in unison with competitors Metro and Empire Company.

September 18, 2020



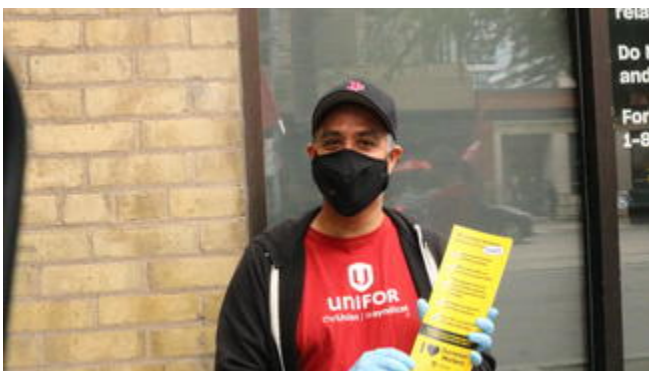
“These are the same workers who got them through the pandemic, who came into work every single day, made sure there was food on the table, and they are the same workers who had pandemic pay snatched away by the big bosses at Loblaw,” said Ontario Regional Director Naureen Rizvi. “We’re leafleting Loblaw’s customers from coast-to-coast-to-coast. We want customers to be part of a national dialogue on the struggle of retail workers.”

Western Regional Director Gavin McGarrigle also called out the grocery giant on its treatment of workers.



“We’ve heard a lot during this pandemic about COVID heroes and that we’re all in this together but when push comes to shove the billionaires want to make sure that they get even richer. They want to rip away the pandemic pay and they want to make sure that they continue these part-time jobs,” said McGarrigle. “Let’s make sure that we don’t just talk about respecting these COVID heroes and that we treat them with the respect and the pay they deserve.”

Chris MacDonald, Assistant to the Unifor National President, pointed out that the reality of poor wages and precarious work in retail extends across the country.



“Fairness isn’t so simple with Loblaw, and many other union and non-union retailers, with their failed strategy of part-time work and low wages. What we’re seeing in Newfoundland is not unique and a business model reliant on part-time work tied to poor wages is not acceptable,” MacDonald said.

MacDonald encouraged retail workers and others to call on Canada’s largest grocers to compensate employees fairly by signing the petition at unifor.org/fairpayforever. “We’re making sure we get Loblaw’s attention right across this country,” concluded Dias. “We’re with you out there in Newfoundland we’re standing with you right here.”

The virtual rally in support of the striking workers was live streamed on Unifor’s Facebook page. Watch [here](#).

September 18, 2020



Local 114 has ordered a limited supply of these t-shirts if you would like to purchase one please contact the local with your name and address, the costs are anywhere from \$17.00 to \$21.50 depending on the size you request. Limited supply.

Unifor's website is constantly being updated as new information is provided. Unifor has many websites to direct you to for assistance.

Resources:

Unifor COVID-19 Information and Resources: <https://www.unifor.org/covid19>

Government of Canada Outbreak Update: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html>

Government of Canada Income Supports for Workers/Individuals: <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html>

Please also check the websites of your respective provinces for any additional provincial supports or resources that may be available to you.

BCCDC website for Health info about COVID-19: www.bccdc.ca

British Columbia Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) website: <http://covid-19.bccdc.ca/>

Health Issues: Dial 811 and follow your Provincial Protocols

Mental Health Issues: Dial 211 or access your EAP benefits:

Other useful websites with information

Federal Government Financial Support Resources:

Government of Canada COVID-19 Financial Assistance for Canadians Outside of Canada: <https://travel.gc.ca/assistance/emergency-info/financial-assistance/covid-19-financial-help>

Government of Canada Economic Plan & How to Apply for Support: <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/03/canadas-covid-19-economic-response-plan-support-for-canadians-and-businesses.html>

COVID - 19 Employment and Social Development Canada Information Guide: <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/corporate/notices/coronavirus.html>

Canada Revenue Agency COVID-19: <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/covid-19-employee-info.html>

September 18, 2020

Provincial Government Financial Support Resources:

BC Preparedness Response: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support>

Income Assistance: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/income-assistance>

Income Assistance Offices in the Lower Mainland: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/income-assistance/access-services#lowermainland>

Health & Preparation Resources:

COVID-19: Being prepared: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/being-prepared.html>

Government of Canada Symptoms & Treatments: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/symptoms.html>

BC COVID-19 Symptom Self-Assessment

Tool: <https://covid19.thrive.health/?fbclid=IwAR1NzQXV3eUgFa5bSimQ2wiRpXVRMZc1LPbqp5fUNIDFIK1Sc7yjhcc4aB>

Health Link BC & 811: <https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/services-and-resources/about-8-1-1>

Other Useful Links:

World Health Organization Myth Busters: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public/myth-busters>

World Health Organization Public Advice: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public>

Government of Canada, Community-based Measures: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/health-professionals/public-health-measures-mitigate-covid-19.html>

If you have any questions please contact your Local Union Representative.

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Follow phone directory to get to your Local Rep and if not available leave a message you will get a call back.

**Employment Insurance questions or EFAP: Barbie Zipp Cell # 1.250.881.3515
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