

# 2016 Auto Talks

#AUTOTALKS16



**UNIFOR**

theUnion | lesyndicat

Wednesday, August 17, 2016

LOCALS: (GM) 222, 636, 199; (Ford) 200, 240, 707, 584, 1324, (FCA) 444, 1285, 1498, 195, 1459

## Highlights: Bargaining started

Unifor officially opened negotiations on August 10 and 11 for a new collective agreement with the Detroit Three automakers.

During this week and the last week of August, local Bargaining Committees and the Master Committee will seek to establish agreement on demands. Towards the end of August, Bargaining Committees will move to the next phase of bargaining: preparing to pick a target company for setting a resolution and a new agreement.

In the auto sector Unifor uses a process called pattern bargaining. This process means that negotiations focus on one company, establishing a pattern that will model the contracts with the other automakers.

Once an agreement is reached with the target company, this will set the pattern of what all Detroit Three agreements should achieve. Then, once the deal is ratified by the membership, the focus shifts to the next company, and then the third.

Unifor National President Jerry Dias will announce the target company on September 6, 2016, the day after Labour Day.

Until then, your Bargaining Committees will meet with each of the companies regularly about priorities and gather the information needed to pick a target.

Unifor National President Jerry Dias called these negotiations “the most important in a generation,” saying they will determine the future of the auto industry in Canada.

**“We had one simple message for each of the Detroit Three: Invest in Canada,” Dias said.**

## IMPORTANT DATES

Bargaining toward new contracts with the Detroit Three began months ago, and will continue into the fall. Here is what to expect:

**August 15** - Full negotiations commence at the Sheraton Centre in Toronto.

**August 22-26** - Unifor National Convention, bargaining takes a pause

**August 28** - Strike authorization votes held at each local.

**September 5** - Labour Day events.

**September 6** - Pattern bargaining target picked.

**September 19** - Detroit Three contracts expire, putting Unifor and the employers in a legal strike/lockout position.

## Your best way to stay informed

This is the first edition of *Auto Talks 2016*, your official and best source of information about negotiations. Each edition will be distributed to you at work, and shared on social media.

**Keep track of bargaining, and get up to date information on our website, visit:**  
**[www.unifor.org/autotalks16](http://www.unifor.org/autotalks16)**

On the website you will also find important fact sheets on bargaining issues, press releases, and links to opinion pieces from Jerry Dias about the talks. Plus, each newsletter and *Just the Facts* issue can be found on the site in the “Background” section.

Info is also available on social media! Join the Facebook page at [facebook.com/AutoTalks16](https://facebook.com/AutoTalks16) or follow us on Twitter @AutoTalks16.

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## Why “Invest in Canada” is our top priority

Unifor Auto Council has made securing investments in Canada the top priority for these talks.

This key demand has been stressed in Local and National Communications, through the media and directly to the Detroit Three automakers – including at the official openings last week.

As Unifor National President Jerry Dias has said, “All else flows from investments in Canada. We need to secure the footprint of the auto industry in this country for future generations.”

Your Unifor bargaining committees will, of course, bring many other issues to the table over the coming weeks and months. But there can be no wage increases, no dealing with grow-ins and nothing for our hardest hit retirees, or anything else, without a secure auto industry going forward in Canada.

That means securing investment in Canada during the life of the contract now being negotiated. It’s why Invest in Canada has been the theme and the priority of these talks.

Unifor has made it clear to each of the Detroit Three that there will be no settlement without commitments to investing in Canada – and there won’t be.

After all, each of these companies made investment commitments to the UAW in its talks with our U.S. brothers and sisters last year.

If the Detroit Three can make that commitment in the United States, they can make it here. Especially since Canada is such a great place to invest. The quality of the work done in Canada is second to none, and the companies make strong profits here.

## Save the date – strike votes soon

Each of the Locals in the Detroit Three Master Agreement will be holding strike authorization votes on **Sunday, August 28**. Save this date. Your voice needs to be heard and your Bargaining Committees need your support. There will be more information coming, but for now mark that date on your calendar.

## Your Bargaining Committees

Here are some photos of your Bargaining Committees from the opening days of negotiations, August 10 and 11, in the order they met with the companies: General Motors, Ford and Fiat Chrysler:

