

# 199NEWS



## Newly elected Unifor National President and Secretary Treasurer visit GM St Catharines

Monday, October 17th marked a special occasion. National President Lana Payne, National Financial Secretary Len Poirier and Assistant to the President Shane Wark visited the GM St. Catharines Propulsion Plant. Chairperson Trevor Longpre and President Jordan Lennox led the tour. This was an exceptional time to highlight the incredibly talented workforce, intricate products we produce and shine a light on the areas of that plant that need attention. Reps were also able to discuss the challenges we have experienced over the last few years as well as everyday issues affecting our members such as psychological health and safety. What we saw from our new leadership was a desire to learn about our members from all the units who work in the GM St Catharines Plant, hear our needs and work in collaboration. ■



### Walk a Mile in HER Shoes

On October 15, members from Local 199 gathered at the Pen Centre and participated in the Walk A Mile In HER Shoes, men’s march to end gender-based violence. The march’s goal was to raise vital funds for Gillian’s Place as well as spread awareness about gender-based violence in Niagara – and beyond. In preparation for the event, members raised funds through sponsorship as well as a gate collection held at General Motors Propulsion Plant.

In total, the **Unifor Local 199 Team raised \$3,052.10!** These funds helped surpass the event’s overall goal of \$120,000 and will be donated to Gillian’s Place, helping to ensure that practical and compassionate services are there when protection and support is needed most.

A huge **thank you** to all who walked and/or donated!

To learn more about Gillian’s Place visit [www.gilliansplace.com](http://www.gilliansplace.com) ■



### Upcoming Meetings:

- November 16
- December 21
- January 18

### General Membership:

6PM@Union Hall

### Retiree Meetings:

1PM @ Union Hall

## Unifor Local 199 Executive Board 2022-2025



President  
Jordan Lennox



Financial Secretary  
Steve McMullen



Vice President  
Mike Winterbottom



GM Chairperson  
Trevor Longpre



Unit Council Chair  
Rose McIntosh



Retiree Chair  
Fred Dougan



Young Worker  
Vince Guardari



Member-At-Large  
Jessica McCourt



Guide  
Alex Latham



Trustee  
Lawrence Robson

## President's Report

These are busy and exciting times at the Local. Over the last year we have successfully negotiated nine collective agreements, making gains in wages, benefits and resolving workplace issues. The Local is still engaged in multiple sets of negotiations as the year continues. I would like to thank all the Bargaining Committees for their hard work and dedication to the membership.

The Local hosted a successful Labour Day Celebration. Despite the rain, the Union Hall was packed, and everyone had a great time. This will be an event that we hope to build on next year. We also had a team participate in the Walk-A-Mile-In-Her-Shoes campaign, which raised money for Gillian's Place, a shelter for abused women and children. In total, the Local raised \$3052.10 towards the shelter. A huge thank you to the participants and those who donated. This is just one way we make a difference in our communities.

As we round the corner on the end of the year, I would like to wish each of you a happy and safe holiday season. All the best to you and yours.

In solidarity,

**Jordan Lennox, President Local 199**



## History of the Local & 199 News

Local 199 first became a chartered local in 1936 when our past brothers and sisters decided to join the United Auto Workers (UAW). In 1984, the formation of the Canadian Auto Workers was completed by then president, Bob White and the decision to sever from the UAW was completed. In August 2013, the CAW name was dropped, and our union became Unifor.

For many years Local 199 published a newspaper that talked about what was happening in the Local and reports from standing committees. In 2008, the Local Executive Board made a decision to stop the publication of this newspaper. Well, as times change, so do executive boards and ideas. The current executive board decided to start the newspaper up again as a way to try and re-connect and re-engage our members as well as keep everyone informed of upcoming events, the local's finances and, through a president's report, news of what is happening at any of the twenty-five workplaces Local 199 represents. ■

## Interested in getting involved with the union?

### Join a Standing Committee!

The 2021 By-law changes removed the need for elections to positions on Standing Committees. Any member in good standing is now able to apply to a position on a Standing Committee.

Standing Committees are a great way to get involved in the Union and the community. Whether you are passionate about the environment, want to put on events for young workers or advocate for women and LGBTQ+, there is a Standing Committee for you. Descriptions for each of the committees are on the Local 199 website.

To apply, email Jordan Lennox, President with your name, workplace, and the Committee you would like to join at [president@unifor199.org](mailto:president@unifor199.org). Applications to join Standing Committees will be accepted until November 30th, 2022. ■



## Holiday Family Movie Party

**December 17 2-5PM**

**199 Young Workers, LGBTQ and Rec Committees invite you and your family to join us for a holiday movie at the Union Hall!**

We will have popcorn and snacks as well as a small gift for children, crafts and an opportunity to have a family portrait taken!

To ensure a gift for your child, **attendees must register by December 11th**. Also, by registering you get a chance to vote on which movie we will be watching!

Register on the Unifor 199 website. If you have questions, contact Jessica McCourt 289-228-5967



## Niagara Ice Dogs deal for 199 Members

The Local purchased season tickets to the Ice Dogs for the 2022-2023 season. Every workplace we represent will be given a set of tickets to raffle off to their members free of charge. We will communicate each workplace's game through the unit chairperson. Also, as part of our season ticket package, **Local 199 Members who want to go to a home game on their own or with their family can do so at a discounted ticket price**. You **MUST** purchase those tickets from the Ice Dogs Box Office located behind the arena and **NOT** at the Meridian Centre Box Office. Please bring your punch card and tell them you want the Local 199 Corporate price. Prices are: Value - \$13ea, Bronze/Silver - \$21ea, Gold/Premium - \$24ea. Each member can have **up to four tickets** at the discounted price for any game.



## Did you know that Unifor Local 199 represents members from twenty-five workplaces in the Niagara Region?

199News will be highlighting those units starting with ParaMed and Valbruna. Check out a description about what they do from their chairpersons below!

### UNIT : Para-Med

Para-Med has been part of Unifor Local 199 since 2018. Chairperson Sarah Brown and committeeperson Cara Brown represent 68 members who work as office staff and in one of the two health care units 199 represents. Sarah has been working for Para-Med since 2019 and when the previous chair stepped down, she saw a need to step up and fill the role. Sarah tells us she took the role as chairperson to ensure her coworkers are fairly represented. Sarah took the Grievance Handling Course at the union hall this year. Cara has worked at Para-Med since 2021 and stepped up to be a union committeeperson to help her coworker when needed and support Sarah. Cara was a union rep previously in her part job. The Para-Med and Unifor contract expires in December 2023



Chairperson  
Sarah Brown



### UNIT : Valbruna ASW Inc.

When Unifor Local 523 merged with Unifor Local 199 in January of 2017, one of the workplaces that was part of that merger was ASW. The workplace is now known as ASW Valbruna and chairperson Doug LeBlanc represents 74 members who are Canada's only workers that produce stainless steel. Valbruna works as a melt shop for turning scrap metal into new re-usable metal. The plant located on Centre St in Welland is currently in hire mode for skilled trades and production workers. Doug informs us if you know someone who wants to apply all they need to do is bring their resume to the plant. The plant has been going through a 50 million dollar renovation to upgrade the furnace and purchase a new dust collector. The current contract expires in February of 2024.



Chairperson  
Doug LeBlanc



**Interested in learning more about the types of sectors that make up Unifor nationwide?  
Check out the Sector Profiles by visiting [www.unifor.org/about-us/sector-profiles](http://www.unifor.org/about-us/sector-profiles)**

### Lest we forget...

On Friday, November 11th, Canada we will remember the men and women who have served our country and the many Canadians who were injured or did not return from servicing overseas.

The former GM plant on Ontario Street was known as McKinnon Industries and during World War II, they went from auto production to war production. There is a plaque in GM's West Clockhouse that reminds us of the 35 McKinnon employees who went overseas and didn't make it home.

In doing the research for this article the following letter from 199 members serving in Europe and we thought we would share them.

From worker in the Inspection Department serving in the R.C.A.F in Belgium to co-worker in October 1944, "Just wanted you to know that I received 300 cigarettes from you the other day on behalf of the Athletic Association. As I was very low in Canada, cigarettes they were certainly appreciated. Since arriving on the continent I have done considerable moving and been to many places I have heard talked about by veterans of the last war. The people of Belgium are very pleased to be liberated and really show it. We have been given the keys to practically every town we're gone through. There is no shortage of beer, champagne, cognac and wine, and brother, what hangovers"

A worker from the Gear Department serving in the army wrote "Went through a spot here which seemed to me a branch of the Ontario Street McKinnon's so well supplied was it with material from you guys it reminded me of you all!"

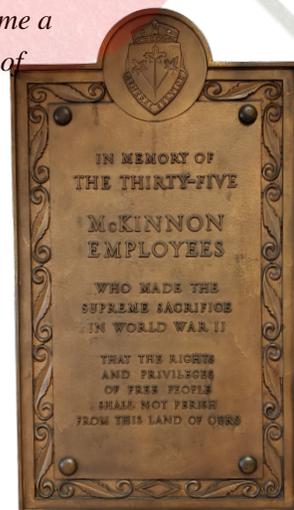
Below are pictures of the war time production from inside the plant and products Local 199 members made!



Local 199 sisters and brother making parts for the war



Gun elevator produced at McKinnon Industries



# Local 199 Health & Safety



## Meeting

The Local has seen a concerning increase in some of the workplaces we represent in the areas of meeting the basic requirements of the Health & Safety Act. Some of the smaller workplaces have no functioning Health & Safety Committee while others have worker reps that are not certified. We have also seen some workplaces with no worker rep at all. In lieu of these items, the executive board has decided to have a meeting on Monday, **November 28** and will have Ed Steers chair a meeting for all the workplaces we represent. The local encourages the Health & Safety Reps to bring any outstanding issues that cannot get resolved to the meeting, and sees this meeting as a chance for worker's to share ideas and learn from each other to makes our workplaces safer for everyone. ■



## What is Transgender Day of Remembrance?

Every year on November 20th, we solemnly remember those who are transgender or in the non-binary spectrum who suffered from violence or have tragically died as a result. The day was started in 1999 by transgender advocate Gwendolyn Ann Smith as to honour the memory of Rita Hester, a transwoman killed in 1998. The vigil commemorated the many lives lost each year due to transphobic violence. ■

## National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women

It has been over 30 years since the murder of 14 young women at Polytechnique Montréal (December 6, 1989). This act of violent misogyny shook our country and led to designating December 6 as The National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. As we mourn their loss and remember their lives, we reaffirm our commitment to fight the hatred that led to this tragedy, and the misogyny that still exists today.

In Canada, **2 in 5** women will experience intimate partner violence in their lifetime and every 11 days a woman or child is killed by a man known to them. Violence against women transcends class, culture, race, and ethnicity,

however, these numbers are much higher for women of colour and Indigenous women. December 6 falls within the **16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence (Nov 25 - Dec 10)**. During these 16 Days, there are some things that you can do to help stop gender-based violence. Be sure to check out the upcoming website post about how you can get involved and create real change!

**Does your workplace have a Women's Advocate?** Unifor has a network of over 475 Women's Advocates across Canada - these positions have been negotiated into collective agreements. Advocates are available for members who are seeking information, support and referral on gender-based violence including

**Join the Women's Committee at the union hall on December 6th as we recognize this important day. Details to come!**

MENTAL HEALTH & ADDICTIONS

# ACCESS LINE

1-866-550-5205

CONFIDENTIAL HELP 24/7

## Are you looking for help with mental health or addiction but don't know where to start?

Access Line matches you with the support you need from services across Niagara. Resources available to our members also include Substance Abuse Rep Mike Gilbert 905-658-2729, Union Counsellors Jessica McCourt 289-228-5967 and Alex Latham 905-658-8640

**\*If you or someone you know is having thoughts of suicide contact COAST 24hr Crisis Line 1-866-550-5205**

## Interested in contributing to or advertising in the 199News?

Contact [unifor199news@gmail.com](mailto:unifor199news@gmail.com)



The Recreation Committee was successful in organizing another 100 tickets for the Toronto Maple Leafs/Buffalo Sabres game in Buffalo on Tuesday, February 21, 2023 @ 7:30 p.m. this is the only time the Maple Leafs are in Buffalo this season. Deadline for tickets is Friday, December 23, 2022. Head to the 199 Website for the link to purchase tickets!

## Retirees Weekly

### Happenings at the Hall



Tues/Wed/Thurs

Pool 1:30-4PM

**Tuesday**

Cribbage 1:30-4PM

**Wednesday**

Women's Crafts & Social 9-11AM

Euchre 1:30-4PM

**Thursday**

Darts 2-4:30PM

**Friday**

Open Euchre & Fun Darts 7:30-10PM

For more information on these and other retiree events, contact 905-682-2611 ext.234



## We've got new neighbours!

If you've been down to the hall lately, you might have noticed that The RAFT has moved in upstairs!

The RAFT, operated by the Niagara Resource Service for Youth, contributes to the welfare of our community by helping at-risk youth, families and neighbourhoods become independent and self-sufficient.

Join us in welcoming The RAFT to 124 Bunting! ■

domestic violence. If you don't have an advocate in your workplace, consider raising the issue at negotiations! Unifor National has some great resources to help make that happen. **\*If you are experiencing violence or have concern for someone you know, please do not hesitate to reach out.** Trained GM Unifor Women's Advocate, Jessica McCourt, is here to support all members regardless of gender. Privacy and confidentiality are deeply respected. Call or Text 289-228-5967.

**Shelter Safe** is a resource that can help connect you with a shelter and resources in your in your area. Visit <https://sheltersafe.ca/> for access to help in your area. ■