

# 199NEWS



## Unifor Local 199 Celebrates Labour Day!

Celebrations kicked off as 199 members, their families and friends joined workers from across the community by walking in the Merriton Lions Labour Day Parade. This is always a great event and serves as a reminder of the history of Labour Day, the contribution the working class people have made to build our communities and to improve the lives of workers everywhere.

After the parade, we welcomed members back to the union hall where we had a BBQ, contests and games, raffle prizes, face-painting, a car show and Marty Allen Band live on the patio!

We were joined by Distress Centre Niagara who shared some

information about their lifesaving services and we were happy to donate the proceeds from our 50/50 draw to help them continue to serve the most vulnerable in our community when in need.

A big thanks to our dealerships for lending us vehicles for the parade. Thank you to Unifor Local 4212 for their prize donation of a BBQ Smoker, and to the Niagara Shrine Club and 501st Legion for helping make the day special for the kids.

Thank you to *everyone* who volunteered, donated prizes and helped create a fun and successful event that hundreds enjoyed!

We already can't wait for Labour Day 2024!



**Upcoming Meetings**  
November 15  
December 20  
**General Membership:**  
6PM @ Union Hall  
**Retiree:**  
1PM @ Union Hall





## President's Report

This summer was a busy one. At the end of May, the Local finished negotiations with Vesuvius. The agreement ratified seeing gains in shift premiums, safety boot allowances, and wages. Over the course of the summer the Local prepared for its annual Labour Day Celebration. This year the Local participated in the Labour Day Parade, with vehicles donated from our represented dealerships, many members came out in a showing of solidarity. At the Union Hall, the party was energetic, and everyone had a great time. There were games, raffles, prizes, and a classic car show. I hope to see even more members come out next year!

Also, over the summer negotiations with the Detroit Three automakers began. The opening ceremony took place August 10th, with Ford Motor Company being announced as the target on August 29th. This was a change in tradition, as the target has historically been announced on Labour Day. Ford ratified their contract and General Motors was picked to be the second target. Through established Pattern Bargaining, the Union continued to assert that General Motors meet the pattern laid out by the Ford agreement. The Company resisted matching pattern on the Retiree Universal Healthcare Allowance and refused to address the TPT abuse raised by the Union. The deadline quickly approached and a tentative agreement had not been reached. At 12:00am the GM Master Bargaining Committee, failing to reach a resolve with General Motors, exercised their ability to strike. This was the first strike at General Motors Canada in 27 years. Active members proceeded to exit the plant and hold the strike line. The Company's resolve broke, and they provided agreement to match the Retiree Universal Healthcare Allowance and agreed to hire 154 TPT's in St. Catharines to fulltime status.

Local 199 and the GM Master Bargaining Committee would like to thank the membership at General Motors for their support and solidarity through the entire bargaining process. Your willingness to go on strike to fight for principled issues was exactly what was needed to bring GM to the table with proposals that addressed these key issues, and more. Again, thank you.

In August, delegates from the Local's Executive Board attended the Canadian Council in Halifax. This Council focused on the 10-year anniversary of the forming of Unifor. Unifor was formed by the combination of the Canadian Autoworkers Union and the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union of Canada. This created the largest private sector Union

in Canada. Other highlights from the Council included former Team Canada member Kendra Fischer, who spoke about her struggles with mental health, as well as a rally for 2SLGBTQAI+, recognizing the struggles of the last ten years.

It should be noted that the Local has General Membership meetings on the third Wednesday of every month, excluding July and August. These are important meetings where the business of the entire Local is discussed. It is a good opportunity for members across the Local to gain an understanding of the different workplaces we represent. It is also a forum for members to find out about upcoming events and initiatives established by the Local's Standing Committees. The Executive Board encourages all members to attend and become more involved in your union.

The Local will be negotiating with Paramed and Spencer ARL over the fall/winter period, as their contracts expire at the end of December. Members should also stay turned for information on upcoming events, such as the December 6th National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women and the Family Holiday Party on December 9th.

Wishing all the members the best as we continue into the fall/winter season.

Stay safe.

Solidarity,

**Jordan Lennox**

**President Local 199**

*president@UniforLocal199.com*



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# FirstOntario

I N S U R A N C E

## Education For You!

If you are interested in learning about workplace and union topics such as Health and Safety, Grievance Handling or Conflict Resolution, just to name a few, there are many education resources available that you should consider. Local Area Courses, PEL Education in Port Elgin and the Unifor-McMaster Labour Studies Program, are exciting options that will help you gain knowledge and develop skills to utilize as unionists and leaders in your workplace.

**Local Area Courses** are typically held at the Union Hall and can range from 1-day to 3-day courses covering all types of topics.

**Unifor's PEL** program is held at the Unifor Family Education Center (FEC) located on the shores of Lake Huron, in Port Elgin, Ontario. Port Elgin offers a wide range of courses to members. Most courses are 40 hours in length and run at the FEC Sunday to Friday.

**Unifor-McMaster Labour Studies Program** is a partnership between Unifor and McMaster University that offers free online educational courses to our members who work for General Motors, Ford and Stellantis. Members can attend classes from the comfort of their own home and will receive credits towards a McMaster University Labour Studies Certificate.

For more information, please visit our Local website at [www.unifor199.org](http://www.unifor199.org), the Local 199 Facebook Page or reach out to me directly. Members may also visit the Unifor National website [www.unifor.org/resources/education](http://www.unifor.org/resources/education) for course descriptions and more information.

### Vincent Guardari

Young Worker/GM Workplace  
Training Coordinator

[vguardari.workplaceco@gmail.com](mailto:vguardari.workplaceco@gmail.com)



## Critical Injuries and the Law

As much as we try to work with our employers to eliminate hazards in the workplace, injuries still happen, and sometimes they are serious enough to be classified as a critical injury.

A critical injury is defined under Ontario Regulation 420/21 as an injury of a serious nature that:

- Places life in jeopardy
- Produces unconsciousness
- Results in substantial loss of blood
- Involves the fracture of a leg or arm, but not a finger or toe
- Involves the amputation of a leg, arm, hand, or foot but not a finger or toe
- Consists of burns to a major portion of the body or
- Causes the loss of sight in an eye



The Ministry takes the position that the fracture or amputation of more than one finger or toe does constitute a critical injury if it is an injury of a serious nature. With respect to the preservation of life, the employer or other workplace party should summon the life-saving assistance of emergency responders by dialing 911.

Under Section 51 of the Act, where a person is critically injured (or worse) from any cause at a workplace, the employer must notify the MOL, and the JHSC, Health and Safety Representative and Union, if any, immediately of the occurrence by telephone or other direct means, as well as submit to them a written report containing such information and particulars as the regulations prescribe. The employer must also preserve and secure the accident scene of a critical injury, unless interfering with the wreckage is necessary for saving life, relieving human suffering, or preventing unnecessary damage to equipment or other property, until permission has been given by the MOL Inspector. These requirements are written in law, and employers can be charged for failing to comply.

All injuries regardless of severity must be reported to your employer, so joint investigations can identify root causes that create countermeasures to prevent recurrence of incidents leading to injury.



### Ed Steers

Health & Safety Representative/  
Health & Safety Committee

[ed.steers@gm.com](mailto:ed.steers@gm.com)

## 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



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

Last edition we highlighted **City of Welland** and **Genaire**  
Learn more about **Pleasant Manor** and **Casino Security** below!

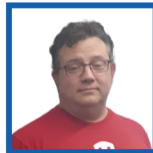
**UNIT: Casino Security**

Chairperson Jim Storin and his committee were successful in negotiating a new 3 year agreement back in May of this year for his 153 full and part time members. The members ratified the agreement at 85%. The committee was able to negotiate a "me to" clause. The "me to" clause is to ensure if the casino management give the non-unionized workers a raise over what the security officer's bargained, they would get the difference paid as well. Jim has been a long time union rep and was there when the casino security officers switched from OPSEU to the CAW. Unifor Local 199 would like to thank Jim for his dedication to his members and the union.

**Interested in learning more about the sectors that make up Unifor nationwide?**



**Jim Storin**  
Chairperson



**Check out the Sector Profiles by visiting [www.unifor.org/about-us/sector-profiles](http://www.unifor.org/about-us/sector-profiles)**

**UNIT: Pleasant Manor**

As unit chairperson Lisa Frame represents a variety of workers in many different job classifications at Pleasant Manor. Lisa's 99 members work as registered nurses, personal support workers, dietary staff, cooks, therapeutic recreation staff and dietary staff. This wide range of job classifications has given Lisa a lot of exposure to the different responsibilities that worker's in the health-care field have to deal with. During the COVID outbreak the worker's were faced with many challenges, they were trying to keep the elderly safe while at the same time concerns for mental health of the staff. Like the rest of health-care Pleasant Manor is short staffed putting pressures on everyone to do more with less. Local 199 thank Lisa and the rest of the membership for stepping up when they were called upon and continue the hard work.

**Radiant Care**  
**Pleasant Manor**

**Lisa Frame**  
Chairperson



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An elephant is shown in a modern living room setting, sitting on a sofa. A hearing aid is visible on its ear. The text is overlaid on a blue background.

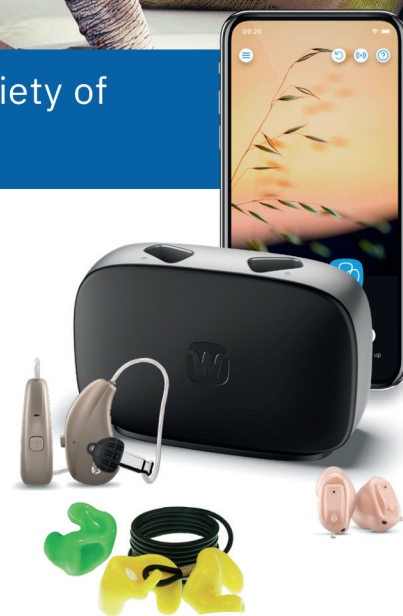
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## Defending our Provincial Public Health Care against the Privatization Agenda - Bill 60

**Bill 60** – The provincial government is wanting to privatize hospital services (transfer service from public to private ownership and control)

**The Catch** – Our public system is overwhelmed with tough cases, resources are stretched very thin, an influx of wait times

**The Reality** – Bill 60 created the illusion of less need for public healthcare funding, intensifying staff shortages and pressure on our public system. It will not save money - it will lead to lower quality of care, out of pocket expenses for patients and further health care equity issues.

Privatization will affect the 160 000 Unifor members and their families who live and work in Ontario, and the 30 000 members who work in the health care sector. With not only our members in mind, but the community at large, Unifor is joining with other unions to address this harmful bill. Unions have, and will continue to, engage in political struggles for human rights, social justice and democracy.

No matter where you live in Ontario, we all deserve good quality health care. Sickness should not cause financial downfall or situations where families have to decide between health care and economic survival. **Health care is a right – not a privilege** - so let's fight for all patients' welfare and against the profit for government!

As a PSW from Radiant Care Pleasant Manor Unit who has seen our health care system decline rapidly over the past four years, I am thrilled to be part of the Member-to-Member campaign on Privatizing Healthcare.

On Tuesday, November 21 from 6:30-8:30PM, myself along with the National Union, will be hosting a town hall meeting to discuss this issue. More details will be shared on the local's [website](#) in the coming days.

For more information, visit [www.savehealthcare.ca](http://www.savehealthcare.ca)



**Lisa Frame**

**Privitization of Health Care  
Member-to-Member Campaign**



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### Riddle Me This

Submit your answers to the riddles below for a chance to win a pair of Niagara Ice Dogs Tickets!

1. **You're in a dark room with a candle, a wood stove, and a gas lamp. You only have one match, so what do you light first?**
2. **I can be cracked, made, told, and played. What am I?**
3. **A sundial has the fewest moving parts of any timepiece. Which has the most?**

Send answers to [unifor199news@gmail.com](mailto:unifor199news@gmail.com) by November 19 to be included in the draw. Entries must include your first and last name, workplace and phone number  
*Open to active and retired members of Unifor Local 199 only.*

Summer Edition **Crossword WINNER \$50 GiftCard** : Laura Eldred

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