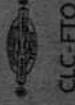


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## March, 2007

### UNITE HERE CANADA IN BRIEF

- UNITE HERE Canadian co-Director, Nick Worhaug, recently met with Cabinet Ministers and leading members of the opposition on Parliament Hill. He lobbied for stronger rules governing the use of foreign temporary workers in Canada. Employers in Alberta and BC are increasingly using foreign temporary workers in hotels and food service. There have been widespread reports of serious abuses of the rights of these workers when in Canada.
- A trial date has been set for October in the trespassing case against well-known actor, Danny Glover who along with UNITE HERE National Co-Director, Alex Dagg has been charged privately by Canadian Niagara Hotels after a UNITE HERE rally in September of 2006, demanding justice for Niagara Hotel workers.
- UNITE HERE Local 272 in Ottawa keeps members up to date via a union conference site that is accessible to members who have their own computer in their own staff room.
- Local 272 President, Shawn O'Meara, declares this a huge communication improvement for members spread out across 80 Ottawa area catholic schools. Local 272 represents the caretakers, maintenance and trades of the Ottawa Catholic School Board.

## UNITE HERE MOTION PASSES PARLIAMENT 155-119 *Caps to Chinese Clothing Imports Expected*

The House of Commons has passed a UNITE HERE motion, calling on the government slow clothing imports from China.

Introduced by British Columbia MP Peter Julian and supported by all three opposition parties – the Bloc Quebecois, the Liberals and the NDP – the motion easily passed the House of Commons 155 to 119.

Members of Parliament spoke passionately during a three-hour debate about help for the Canadian clothing industry, in particular Brampton/Mississauga MP Navdeep Bains, Winnipeg MP Pat Martin and Hamilton area MP Dave Christopher-son.

"I am frustrated by the staggering growth of Chinese imports into this country because it is killing what is left of the garment industry in the riding I represent," said Winnipeg NDP MP Pat Martin. Liberal International Trade Critic, Ontario MP Navdeep Bains, expressed the support of Opposition Leader, Stéphane Dion, for



Ontario sewing machine operator Radika Quan-Soon after her safeguard testimony before the House of Commons

UNITE HERE's motion.

"The leader of the official opposition supports this motion and understands the importance of this motion, and understands the implications it has on jobs in the apparel industry and understands the implications it has in Montreal, in other cities and other urban centres."

Alex Dagg, UNITE HERE National Co-Director, hailed the motion as a victory for UNITE HERE members

across Canada.

"This was really a Canada wide effort by members of UNITE HERE. Whether it was garment workers rallying in Montreal, Ontario members speaking to House of Commons' Committees or Manitoba, BC and Quebec leaders lobbying Members of Parliament, the work of UNITE HERE members from across Canada made this victory possible."

## Canada First with Cintas Organizing Victory in Quebec

Workers in Montreal are leading the way into UNITE HERE with the filing of an application at Quebec's Labour Board.

After years of enduring harsh working conditions for low pay, Montreal Cintas workers are poised to be the first to form a union of drivers and production workers in the company's history.

Quebec is one of the five provinces, along with the federal government, to use a card check system to determine if workers want to join the union. A majority of

workers have signed cards.

A recent ruling from a US NLRB judge upheld workers' charges that Cintas threatened to fire a union supporter, unlawfully confiscated union materials and disciplined worker activists. The judge found these violations "intensive" and "not isolated or minor."



Jonathan Poirier, a former Cintas employee, supported the UNITE HERE organizing drive at Cintas

## UNITE HERE British Columbia Joint Council Nominated for Prestigious Rosemary Brown Award by United Nations Association in Canada

Vas Gunaratna, Director of the UNITE HERE British Columbia Joint Council was pleased to be notified that the union had been nominated, by Patsy George president of the United Nations Association in Canada (Vancouver Branch) for the prestigious Rosemary Brown Award for Women. This annual recognition is given to a British Columbia woman or BC-based organization that promotes the values and ideals that political activist and former NDP MLA Rosemary Brown championed during her lifetime.

*Until All of Us Have Made it, None of Us Have Made it.* Rosemary Brown

Rosemary Brown dealt with the harsh and private pain of many of the women who are members of the Garment Workers Union, and the great work done by the union to correct the conditions and fight for basic rights for these women.

In the letter of nomination, it was revealed that Rosemary

## UNITE HERE Local 40 Springs Into Bargaining Action

UNITE HERE Local 40 Springs into Bargaining Action Bargaining begins this spring in Vancouver for the corporate hotels grouped under the Greater Vancouver Hotel Employers Association (GVHEA).

There are a number of issues at these hotel properties, and the 1500 members covered by this agreement have begun the bargaining process. As Jim Pearson, president of UNITE HERE Local 40 notes, bargaining these contracts is part of a bigger campaign.

"Bargaining doesn't begin when the union committee meets with the multi-national corporate employers, as will happen this spring when both sides come together to negotiate a new collective agreement for union members working in Vancouver's big hotels. UNITE HERE Local 40 has been preparing for what can be called serious, strategic and groundbreaking negotiations for quite some time. This particular collective agreement sets the standard for hotel workers in British Columbia and is often regarded as an industry leader agreement."

In the summer of 2000, union members at these properties took to the picket lines and engaged in bitter strike action that lasted almost four weeks.

Along with bargaining for the downtown Vancouver "Big Four", union members at the Delta Vancouver Airport Hotel in Richmond and at the Holiday Inn on Broadway in Vancouver are getting ready for their contract negotiations with their collective agreements also expiring at the end of June.

In the middle of the summer, more than 500 union members working at the Cara Flight Kitchen in Richmond will see their collective agreement expire. Preparations are ongoing for this important round of negotiations with bargaining proposals now distributed in all workplaces.

Updates on this important bargaining campaign can be found at UNITE HERE Local 40's website, [www.local40union.com](http://www.local40union.com)

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JOIN UNITE HERE ON LINE!

SEND YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS TO

[WHARTIKSEN@UNITEHERE.CA](mailto:WHARTIKSEN@UNITEHERE.CA) TO BE ADDED TO

OUR NATION WIDE ACTIVIST EMAIL LIST

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# UNITE HERE! CANADA

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## Clean Sweep for Union!

*Room Attendants Vote 42-0 to Join UNITE HERE*

Hotel workers at 1 King West, a well-known downtown Toronto condo-hotel, voted unanimously to join UNITE HERE on Thursday, March 8th. The room attendants were welcomed into the union by hundreds of members of UNITE HERE Local 75, who rallied outside the hotel after the vote to celebrate the mostly female workers who chose International Women's Day to stand up and join the union.

"We stood together and showed 1 King West that we wanted to be members of UNITE HERE," said Jocelyn Cuasay, a room attendant at 1 King West. "This is about our working conditions and it is also about us having a voice. We are the invisible workers who are making the 1 King West hotel really successful but our concerns are being overlooked"



Hotel Workers March Down Bay Street in Toronto to Welcome Forty Two New Members to UNITE HERE after a Unanimous Vote for the Union on International Women's Day.

## UNITE HERE On The Prairies Organizing and Servicing in Saskatchewan

UNITE HERE Local 41 combines strong servicing and organizing in a one-stop shop out of Regina. Garry Whalen, President and members of Local 41 have been busy this year, negotiating strong collective agreements while also growing the union.

Negotiations with Cara Flight Kitchen, which represents workers doing food services at the Regina airport, wrapped up with strong wage increases and at the Country Inn and Suites in Regina, UNITE HERE members got a pleasant surprise. After negotiating a specific family day off into their collective agreement, the government of Saskatchewan passed legislation for a statutory holiday in February giving them a second day off, with pay, for the month.

Even while beginning to prepare for negotiations at the Holiday Inn Express in Regina and the Sheraton in Saskatoon, UNITE HERE Local 41 is in the middle of an organizing drive at a Regina area hotel. Under Saskatchewan labour law, workers in this prairie province only need to sign union cards to form a union in their workplace. Stay tuned for further details.