

Unifor Constitutional Convention 2022 Delegates' Report

CONGRATULATIONS LANA PAYNE Unifor's first woman President and the rest of the leadership team. Your work has only just begun. *Let's all stay the course and work as one going forward.*



Brent Tree and Mike Van Boekel with Lana Payne (center)

Unifor Local 88 delegates were fully engaged at the 2022 Constitutional Convention, which started off with a new delegate orientation session on Sunday night, and was very well attended.

On Monday the convention format was reviewed, discussed, and voted on by the delegates. We saw videos highlighting many Unifor actions and events over the last three years.

We heard reports from the Secretary Treasurer, starting with the financial report. That was followed by a report on the constitutional breach by Jerry Dias and the implementation of a task force to review current procedures in an effort to ensure a breach like this does not happen again and that if it does, there is a clear code of conduct on how to deal with such a situation.

On Tuesday there were reports from all the regional directors highlighting struggles and gains in each region.

Reports were also received on organizing and welcoming new members to Unifor.

The Resolutions Committee presented resolutions to be voted on and discussed by the delegates this was done each day of the convention. The Constitution Committee presented constitutional amendments daily to be discussed and voted on also. The 1000 plus delegates in attendance listened and voted for transparency and accountability at this convention.



Sister Linda Leyten at the microphone speaking to proposed Constitutional Amendment C-16

There were many guest speakers present at the convention. Derrick Palmer, of the Amazon Labor Union spoke about their hard work, struggles and interference from the employer Amazon when organizing the warehouse in Staten Island, New York.

Alejandra Morales Reynoso, General Secretary of the democratically elected SINTTIA's independent union representing members at the GM SILAO plant in Mexico. Alejandra was the recipient of the Nelson Mandela Award.

Marc Roussel from Unifor Local 219 Nackawic, New Brunswick was the recipient of the Bud Jimmerfield Award for commitment and hard work in the field of health and safety for his members and workers in general across this great country.

Mozart Mimms a retired activist, trade unionist, former President of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, and politician received the Neil Riemer Award for his outstanding contribution to the public good.

I had just finished reading the autobiography of Nelson Mandela "Long Walk to Freedom". So, you could imagine the surprise when his great-grandson Siyabulela Mandela, was introduced as a guest speaker. Hearing to him speak brought me right back to the book and how the struggles he is seeing today in Sudan and Afghanistan relate to the struggles his great grandfather and others had to deal with during the apartheid in South Africa. I must say this was a highlight of the convention for myself and many other delegates.

Wednesday's highlight was the election for the new leadership of Unifor National.

The results of the election are:

Lana Payne	President
Len Poirier	Secretary Treasurer
Daniel Cloutier	Quebec Director
Naureen Rizvi	Ontario Regional Director
Jennifer Murray	Atlantic Regional Director
Gavin McGarrigle	Western Regional Director

Congratulations to them all. Unifor Local 88 looks forward to working with them well into the future.

After the days' business was complete, a fundraiser was held for "The Imagine Build" A program working closely with Oneida Nation of the Thames, near London, to build accessible homes for families. \$170,000 was raised!

Thursday was a full day which started off with the GM Cami EV Transition – Video. Mike Van Boekel, Cami plant chairperson spoke after the video about the transition to full EV and commended all involved in the making of the video. This was a great day to once again show how Local 88 steps up to the task at hand and makes everyone, including GM, shine.

Seamus O'Regan MP for St John's South – Mount Pearl, NL, Canada's Minister of Labour spoke on a number of topics that were relevant to the labour movement in Canada and pledged to work together with unions to make better working conditions for workers.

There was a march through the streets of Toronto to show solidarity for Unifor Local 681 Manitoba Hydro who are considered essential service workers, who have been on rotating strike for 55 days, as well as

Unifor Local 177 Ash Grove Cement Plant in Joliette, Quebec, locked out for 15 months, while the employer continues to do everything in their power to not bargain a new agreement with these workers.

After the days' business was done a social was held for all delegates and their families with Hamilton, Ontario based band "The Arkells" performing.

On Friday the delegates heard from the Public Review Board on complaints it has received since the last convention and the decisions that were made on those complaints. We received an independent audit report on the Public Review Board's expenses.

Our new President closed out the convention with her concluding remarks.

Unifor Local 88 delegates representing the membership of Local 88 were fully engaged in the convention and voted on all issues that were presented.



L to R Mel Boelsterli, Mike Murphy, Rob Gallace, Stephan Cronin, Linda Leyten, Roger Yaholnitsky, Brent Tree.

I respectfully submit this report on behalf of the Constitutional Convention Delegates of Unifor Local 88. We thank the membership for your confidence in us to represent your interests to the National union and help shape our Constitution.

In Solidarity,
Brent Tree, President
and Unifor Local 88 Constitution Convention Delegate