

President Report

January 29, 2025

President's Address to the Membership – General Membership Meeting

Good evening sisters and brothers

Thank you all for being here tonight. It is always an honour to address you and reflect on the incredible work we have accomplished together as a local union. Since our last meeting in November, we have witnessed remarkable acts of generosity, solidarity, and unwavering commitment to our community.

First and foremost, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who participated in our Secret Santa for Seniors program. Thanks to your overwhelming support, we delivered gifts to 86 seniors this past Christmas. Your kindness brought joy and comfort to many, reinforcing the true spirit of the holiday season. These thoughtful gestures exemplify the compassion and unity that define our membership.

Beyond this initiative, our local distributed on behalf of Unifor Social Justice department significant contributions to our community by supporting Toronto Harvest Food Bank, the Yorktown Women's Shelter, and FoodShare. These organizations provide essential services, and I am incredibly proud that we, as a union, continue to play a role in strengthening our communities. These generosity ensures that those in need receive the support and care they deserve.

I also want to take a moment to recognize and commend the many members of our local who have stepped up to serve on committees. These dedicated individuals embody the spirit of unionism, advocating for positive change and working tirelessly to improve the lives of our members and the broader community. Your commitment is what makes our union strong, and I encourage more of you to get involved. Whether you have ideas, concerns, or simply a desire to contribute, we welcome your participation. Reach out via email or phone—let's collaborate to expand our efforts and build a stronger, more engaged membership.

Your passion and engagement are the driving forces behind Local 673. Together, we have built a vibrant, effective union that truly cares. As we move forward into 2025, let us harness this momentum and continue striving for excellence. There is no limit to what we can achieve when we stand united.

We also recognize the ongoing challenges within the GSC Etobicoke office, formerly Benecaid. Discussions regarding shift schedules and work commitments, which stem from incorporating Benecaid and HACC365 into the GSC collective agreement, remain a priority. We have raised grievances and are actively working toward a resolution. Our members are our priority, and our focus remains steadfastly on them.

We initiated discussions with the Toronto Cricket Club in accordance with legislation and the Collective Agreement regarding the pay equity report we requested in July. In August, the company informed us that they were selecting an external specialist to lead the work. We were initially advised that the report would be completed by December 2nd; however, this was later extended to the end of January. We are currently awaiting confirmation from HR on the final timeline.

On a national level, our union is actively addressing critical industry challenges. Lana Payne, our National President, recently held a forum with hundreds of local union presidents across the country to discuss the pressing threat of tariffs and Unifor's Canada-first approach to protecting jobs and safeguarding our economy. If imposed, these tariffs would significantly impact the aerospace sector, which relies heavily on an integrated supply chain with the U.S.

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To address this, we have scheduled meetings with Bombardier to understand their concerns and explore ways we can assist. Additionally, we have reached out to both De Havilland and MDA Space to offer our support in navigating these challenges. Our collective strength lies in our ability to take proactive measures, engage in meaningful dialogue, and advocate fiercely for the interests of our members and the broader industry.

Thank you all for your unwavering dedication and support. Let's continue to stand together, strengthen our union, and work towards a future where every member is valued, protected, and empowered.

I move to adopt my report.

Maryellen McI Imoyle

Unifor Local President

