



SKILLED TRADES COUNCIL – DELEGATES REPORT



The first Unifor National Skilled Trades Council of the year was held in Peterborough, Ontario on the weekend of March 7-9, 2025.

After a brief welcome & land acknowledgment, the council quickly got down to business. There were many female speakers as we celebrated International Womens Day on this weekend.

Ontario Regional Director, Samia Hashi, spoke about Unifors movement for fairness for women in the workforce. She touched on how Skilled Trades will be at the center of how Canada fights back against the Trump Tariffs.

Unifor National President, Lana Payne, was the next speaker. She spoke about “Labour mobility” and the fact that we do not want Labour mobility to take away or erode our skilled trades language. One third of our union work in trade dependent areas. “If we don't fix this – our union has a problem. The tariffs not only weaken our country, they weaken our union.”

In his Chairs report, Ken Anderson spoke about the recent Nation Executive Board Meeting, the Union Training & Innovation Program and modernizing Apprenticeship programs. He also acknowledged Brother Ray Hamel, Recording Secretary for the council, who is retiring after 26 years on the council.

The Bob Chernecki Charity of Choice for this council was the Boys & Girls Club of Durham. The club assists 500-600 kids in after-school programs every week. The Councils donation of \$4000 was accepted by Bobbi Jo Riel and Marnie Smith. Jason Gale, chairperson for the Oshawa and Eastern Ontario Area Sub-council pledged another \$2000 to the charity of choice.

The Ontario Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development, David Piccini was in attendance and spoke about his family's background in the steel sector. He obviously spoke about tariffs and said, “You don't respond to a bully by running away.”

Jennifer French, Member of Provincial Parliament for Oshawa was also in attendance and spoke about Issues with WSIB, pushing for anti-scab legislation and of course Tariffs. She said we need to restart buy Canadian in government procurement and Ontario's major advantage is Healthcare and Education.

It was a busy weekend with continuing themes of International Womens day and Tackling Tariffs.