



UNIFOR NATIONAL SKILLED TRADES COUNCIL BGMO SUB-COUNCIL REPORT



LOCAL 1285 SKILLED TRADES / UNIT MEETING November 24th, 2019



< Dave Cassidy,
President STC
Terry (Sumo)
Brighton >
Acting Chair GKHC
Area Sub-Council



The National Skilled Trades Council was held in Hamilton at the Sheraton Hotel on Friday November 15th through Sunday November 17th, 2019. With 140 people in attendance.

Dave Cassidy, President National Skilled Trades Council, opened the Council and introduced Brother Terry (Sumo) Brighton, Acting Chair of the Guelph, Kitchener, Hamilton & Cambridge Area Sub-Council who welcomed the Delegates, Guests & National Reps to Hamilton. Terry is also the Chair of the Skilled Trades Council (STC) Credentials Committee.

Once the agenda was adopted and the Minute Of Silence observed; the Council began with the first guest speaker, Mike Divine. Mike



Mike Divine
Cambridge City Councillor

was the President of Unifor (CAW) Local 1451 and was also a member of the STC. He gave a very honest and passionate history of the STC. He told us that in the early days, the Council was very Ontario-centric. In order to

be a truly national Council, we had to expand throughout the country. We have certainly made great headway in that regard. He also, reported that the Council "back in the day" was not culturally diverse nor gender inclusive. The Council continues to pursue its many initiatives to improve on our inclusiveness.

The next guest speaker was Naureen Rizvi, the Unifor Ont. Regional Director. She spoke of our initiatives to help encourage workers of colour and women to be encouraged to consider Skilled Trades as a viable career option. She went on to inform us about the various challenges our Union is faced with; especially when dealing with our governments. We have 22 major sectors in Ontario and everyone of them are vulnerable under the Ford government. She gave a very good background on Bill 124 and the negative effects that it will have on our healthcare.



Naureen Rizvi
Unifor Ontario Regional
Director

Naureen gave a brief history on Unifor's disaffiliation with the Canadian Labour Congress and emphasis on repairing our relationship with the CLC and the importance of strong alliances within the Labour Movement. She asked us to support the campaign for temporary workers. This is a campaign that shows just what our Union is all about. We are fighting for the rights of temporary workers; regardless of the fact that they are not members of Unifor. To quote Jerry Dias: "It is just the right thing to do!"



Wellness &
Emotional
Support
for youth online



At every Skilled Trades Council, the STC adopts a charity for the Bob Chernicki Charity Of Choice. This Council supported the Wes For Youth Online charity. We had the privilege of hearing from Yolanda Cameron about this extremely important charity.

Wes For Youth Online was founded by Yolanda and her husband after they tragically lost their son, Wes, to suicide at 16 years of age. They never wanted any other family to have to go through what they went through.

Wes For Youth Online has six professional counselors online and are available 24/7. They help youths with many different types of issues and remain anonymous. There are over 1800 youths (13 – 24 years old) registered. The Hamilton STC donated \$4,000.00 to this most worthy charity



< Yolanda Cameron from
Wes For Youth On-line
Yolanda with Dave
Cassidy after receiving
donation from STC >



NATIONAL SKILLED TRADES COUNCIL HAMILTON

- 140 In Attendance
- 5 Guest Speakers & 16 Observers
- 5 Presentations from Directors & National Reps
- 17 Sub-Councils
- Next Council: February 7 – 9 , 2020 – London ON
- NSTC donated **\$4,000.00** to the Bob Chernicki Charity Of Choice – "Wes For Youth – Online"



Craig Brazil, IMM
Coordinator
Sheridan College

Craig Brazil, Professor & Industrial Mechanic Millwright Coordinator, from Sheridan College gave us a very in-depth presentation on how the college educates students enrolled in apprenticeships and courses to help them to enter the field. He laid out the education requirements for apprentices with a brief outline of the registration and in-take processes.

In addition to that, Craig, gave us highlights of the success of the apprentices in the Ontario, Canada and World Skills competitions. The Ontario Skills competition is the largest in Canada with over 2,400 participants and 35,000 spectators. There are over 70 businesses, colleges, apprenticeship programs and government representatives in attendance. All watching 500 competitors in over 40 competitions.



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Unifor President Jerry Dias addresses the Hamilton STC

Our President, Jerry Dias, gave the Council a very passionate and informative presentation. He reminded us of our social responsibilities about helping those less fortunate than ourselves. He highlighted the success of Trades in the re-building Willow Place, a women's shelter in Winnipeg. (Dave Tesolin, former BAP Skilled Trades Chair, was one of the coordinators for this most worthy project). Jerry went on to say how the Social Justice Fund will continue to help secure clean drinking for Indigenous communities that need some assistance. This will be one of our cornerstones in helping to improve the Truth & Reconciliation Program.

He then told us of PM Justin Trudeau's phone call thanking Unifor in stopping Andrew Scheer from being elected. We were definitely effective; so much so that Rod Phillips called Jerry to help repair relations with Doug Ford. He was informed that the Ford government cannot continue to "mess with Trades". The dismantling of the Ontario College Of Trades and de-skilling. He reminded Mr. Phillips that bona fide apprenticeship are the keys to our workplaces.

Jerry finished with our aims in 2020 bargaining- "We will not be passive – we will fight!". The situation with the UAW and the Detroit 3 is very different than Unifor's relationship with the D-3 and our membership. Securing product for Brampton, Oakville and Oshawa are top priorities.

John Breslin & Phil Fryer gave their report from the Skilled Trades Department. Phil congratulated John on his recent election to the Executive Board of the Canadian Apprenticeship Forum (CAF). He is the lone voice for Labour on this influential forum. He then went on to explain the new process for the Journeyman Card application and the role of the committees from the various sub-councils in that process.



John Breslin, Director Unifor Skilled Trades

John told the Council of BC's intent to go back to compulsory trades. Their old model that failed is the one that Doug Ford wants Ontario to follow. If Ford succeeds, he will turn apprenticeships into precarious jobs. We can't devalue apprenticeships. To that end, John informed us of the importance of forging alliances with the IBEW and other construction trades.

APPRENTICE FACTS & FIGURES

- 300 Students in Trades classes @ Mohawk – only 10% working in Trade that they are studying
- Women make up 95% of Early Childhood workers and only 4.2% of Electricians
- Women in Trades > Best: Manitoba 18% / Worst NB <5%
- Only 38% of girls know about apprenticeships
- Liuna (Labourers International union) has 130,000 members and ZERO compulsory trades

THE BGMO CORNER

The Brampton, Georgetown, Milton & Oakville (BGMO) Skilled Trades Area Sub-Council was very pleased to have Brothers Blake Noonan (Local 1285), Ron Baran & Chris Melnyk (Local 1256) as guests at the Hamilton STC. They told us how informative it was, the value of networking with delegates from all over the country and the comradery with their fellow Trades. The next regular meeting of the BGMO will be in April at Local 707 in Oakville. Watch the bulletin boards for any upcoming special meetings.



Brother John Fitzgerald (Local 707, BGMO) shares the "Unifor/Pathways Skilled Trades As A Career Choice" presentation with the Council

The BGMO was tasked by Dave Cassidy, NSTC President, to develop a Skilled Trades initiative to help disadvantaged youth learn about apprenticeships. The charity that we were assigned to assist is Pathways To Education (Rexdale location).

Pathways is an extremely successful national network (20 locations across Canada with 8 in Ontario). Their focus is to have kids from at risk neighbourhoods to stay in high school and graduate. They have been extremely effective. Brothers John Fitzgerald & Mark McGregor have been working with the wonderful team from Pathways and have developed a comprehensive presentation to help the students and their parents gain a better understanding of having Skilled Trades as a career option. The intent is to start with Pathways Rexdale and expand to other Pathways locations. The first Parent Night is on Nov. 30th. November 30th and we will update you on the progress.



Other Sub-Councils have reached out to us and asked for the presentation; we were happy to supply it to them.

Brother Duane Reay reported on the situation at BAP.

- 438 Trades + 27 apprentices (183 Elect, 151 MW, 97 T/M, 2 Weld & 5 St. Eng.).
- 20 more apprentices to come onboard
- D-Rate update > start Jan. 2 > 678 units daily
- No product allocation
- 2020 bargaining & outstanding 2016 issues

Brother Cassidy wrapped up the Conference by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas & a Happy, Healthy & Prosperous New Year!

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- February 7th - 9th, 2020 Skilled Trades Council London ON
- April 2020, BGMO Oakville ON
- May 22nd - 24th, 2020 Skilled Trades Council Vancouver BC
- May 24th - 26th, 2020 Canadian Apprenticeship Forum Calgary AB

Respectfully submitted by your BGMO – Mark McGregor, Jason Watson, Ray Wintemeyer & Dennis Wright and Duane Reay, Skilled Trades Chair