



Detroit Meeting Update

On Dec. 20, 2018, a delegation of Unifor representatives led by National President Jerry Dias met with General Motors senior executives in Detroit. Unifor used the opportunity to make its case for keeping the Oshawa Assembly plant open. At the heart of the discussion was our demand that GM honour the commitments made in 2016 bargaining – **GM committed it would not close any plant during the life of the agreement.** Unifor also presented several longer-term allocation options for the Company to consider.

Unifor's delegation consisted of Local and National Union representatives: Jerry Dias, National President, Bob Orr, National Secretary-Treasurer, Shane Wark, Assistant to the National President, Bill Murnighan, Director of Research, Colin James, President of Unifor Local 222 and Greg Moffatt, Oshawa Assembly Plant Chairperson.

The following GM officials attended the meeting: Alicia Bowler Davis, Executive Vice President, Global Manufacturing, Gerald Johnson, Vice President, North America Manufacturing and Labor Relations, Scott Sandefur, Vice President, GM North America Labor Relations, Christopher Thomson, Senior Manager, Divisional Labour Relations Oshawa, and Travis Hester, President and Managing Director GM Canada.

At this meeting, Unifor delivered another message loud and clear: GM continues to grow its footprint in Mexico at the expense of Canadian workers, their families and our communities. By 2020, GM is forecast to produce nearly 1 million vehicles in Mexico, and only 194,000 vehicles in Canada. We explained the allocation in Mexico compared to Canada will reach unprecedented levels of imbalance and unfairness. We were very clear – **unless GM reverses course they should expect serious pushback from Canadian consumers.** With its latest restructuring announcement, GM has simply gone too far.

Unifor was also clear in delivering our most important message – GM has an opportunity to do the right thing and keep the Oshawa plant open. In this scenario, everyone wins – our members at GM and supporting supplier locations, other workers in the broader community, community charities, local businesses and of course GM itself. Continuing to operate the most productive, highest quality and flexible plant in its North American operations, and retaining the confidence of Canadian consumers, will be a windfall for GM.

In response, GM representatives re-explained the reasons behind coming to the decision to close Oshawa. **We do not accept these explanations. Although they gave no indication they would reverse the decision, GM did commit to seriously consider Unifor's proposal and provide a response by January 7, 2019.** We will share that information with members as soon as it becomes available and keep all members informed of any future meetings or communications.

This is an incredibly difficult time for all members of Unifor Local 222, both at GM and all supplier locations, and our wider Oshawa and auto community. **We thank you for your continued support, activism and solidarity. Your actions are making a difference. We must continue to pressure the company and show them the strength of our union.**

We are all very aware of the extremely difficult times you're going through, but please do your best to enjoy the holiday season with your loved ones.

In Solidarity,

Jerry Dias
President Unifor

Colin James
President Local 222

Greg Moffatt
Shop Committee Chairperson

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