

Save Oshawa GM Update



Brothers & Sisters,

First, we would like to thank all the members and other unions who came to Windsor for the rally on Jan. 11th, across from GM headquarters in Detroit. We rallied together as GM held an investors event; we told these investors about the horrible impact GM is having on our community in the name of profits over people. For those who weren't in Windsor, we still felt your support and solidarity thanks to all the messages online and the jump in numbers of those signing the petition. There were 50,000 views of the rally on social media.

During the rally, the Premier and the Prime Minister were called out for their inaction, in particular Justin Trudeau's deafening silence in the days following our meeting with him in Ottawa. Two days after our rally, in two separate meetings, Premier Doug Ford and federal Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development Navdeep Bains spoke with GM management. Unfortunately GM remains firm in their position and continues to state so publicly. **Unifor is pressing hard for a joint meeting of Unifor, General Motors and the Prime Minister's and Premier's offices.**

A growing number of Canadian consumers support an outright boycott of GM vehicles if the automaker does not reverse its plan to close the Oshawa assembly plant, according to an Ekos Research poll commissioned by Unifor.

"The fact that Canadian consumers are willing to punish GM with a complete boycott is exactly what we have been warning the company about for weeks," says Unifor National President Jerry Dias. "A widespread GM boycott would hurt Canadian and American workers who do not deserve to be casualties of GM's corporate greed and ongoing move of production to Mexico."

The poll concluded that GM's brand is at risk and closing the Oshawa plant could seriously impact sales. The survey results found:

- 45 per cent of Canadians support an outright GM boycott.
- 26 per cent of Canadians say they would consider a GM boycott.
- 74 per cent of Canadians believe if GM must build in Canada if they want to sell here.
- 54 per cent of Canadians opinion of GM has worsened because of Oshawa announcement.
- 35 per cent approval rating of Trudeau government's performance on GM file.
- 34 per cent approval rating of Ford government's performance on GM file.

The poll also found that Canadians are clearly underwhelmed by the response by both levels of government in the wake of GM's announcement that will cost 24,000 jobs in Canada.

"Canadians expect their elected officials to fight to keep good jobs in Canada, not just accept the corporate line that it is simply a business decision while workers and the Canadian taxpayers who bailed out GM a decade ago are betrayed," says President Dias.

Unifor is firmly committed to bringing GM to the table; to force them to quit spinning their tales to the media about future jobs for our members. **The latest StatsCanada survey shows there are already 13,400 unemployed in the Oshawa area and GM is doing nothing but bringing phantom hope when they say there are thousands of available jobs out there.**

Other unions and workplaces have our back. We thank Local 1090 members for their show of support at Inteva in Whitby on Tuesday. Decision-makers are noticing our efforts and we are bringing more allies into our corner.

This is not just a GM issue. This involves all of the suppliers and our entire community.

On Jan. 22, Unifor will be arguing our policy grievance, #18380, at GM CHQ, that GM violated our Collective Agreement. The National Union and the Unifor Legal Department are providing support to the Local Union in handling the grievance file.

In closing, we will continue to update you in the plant. It is imperative for every single member to understand we must continue to put even more public pressure on General Motors if we are to have any chance of a positive remedy. **By doing nothing, we will achieve nothing.**

In Solidarity,

Jerry Dias
President Unifor

Colin James
President Local 222

Greg Moffatt
Shop Committee Chairperson

Bill Dickson
Skilled Trades Chairperson

Kevin Campbell
District #2 Committeeperson

Daye Greenwood
District #4 Committeeperson

Paul Wheeler
District #6 Committeeperson

Mark Sheahan
District #7 Committeeperson

Fightback at SaveOshawaGM.ca / @SaveOshawaGM