



December 12, 2014

AN OPEN LETTER FROM UNIFOR NATIONAL PRESIDENT, JERRY DIAS

Yesterday GM announced a major investment in Mexico.

As your National President, I want to assure you that while Unifor is very disappointed by this announcement our determination to work with GM to ensure it has a strong future in Canada is unwavering.

We are confident that GM recognizes the competitiveness of its facilities in Canada and optimistic that GM remains committed to Canada for the long-term. Canada ranks #6 in its global manufacturing and is one of its strongest markets.

Still, we are all concerned. GM's decision adds to the avalanche of new investment announcements received by Mexico in the last year. Several other companies recently announced new auto assembly operations in Mexico.

Soon Mexico will be producing over one of every five vehicles in North America. Under NAFTA, Mexico has expanded its vehicle assembly dramatically – but all at the expense of US and Canadian investment and production.

However, the bottom line is that Canada has many advantages to offer GM for high-quality, competitive, profitable production. Because of your work, the productivity and quality awards won at Canada's plants are unmatched anywhere in GM's global operations.

What's more, the recent decline in the Canadian dollar means Canadian costs are now fully competitive with any industrialized country. The company is highly profitable in Canada, on both the sales and the manufacturing arms of their business.

GM was saved in 2009 in large part thanks to sacrifices by its Canadian workers, Canadian retirees, Canadian taxpayers and other Canadian stakeholders (including suppliers and dealers). The federal and Ontario governments contributed over \$10 billion to GM's rescue in 2009.

The federal and Ontario governments still own 7% of GM – making them together the largest common shareholder in the company. To date, the governments have not used that leverage to ensure future investments in Canada - and have indicated they may sell their shares (even before winning back the full value of the funds invested in GM). Unifor is urging the governments to maintain their GM shares and use them more actively to win future investments in Canada.

Yesterday's announcement is a call to action for the federal and provincial governments to play a more active role in ensuring GM's long-term presence in Canada. Canadian workers and suppliers and communities will do everything we can to make our factories the most high-quality and productive in the world, and highly profitable. But we cannot match Mexican wages – nor should we even try to. We need a national auto strategy and sensible trade agreements – not a one-way street like NAFTA has become.

With your Local and with the might of the 305,000 Unifor members, we will do everything in our power to protect your jobs and communities.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jerry Dias". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Jerry Dias
National President

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