

Unifor launches “Pay Fair Chartwell” campaign to uncover realities of working at Chartwell Retirement Homes

Unifor has launched a campaign to inform residents, families and community members about the shamefully low wages being paid by Chartwell Retirement Homes in seven locations across the province.

“Caregivers are vital in providing a safe and enjoyable living environment for seniors in retirement homes,” said Katha Fortier, Assistant to Unifor National President. “Chartwell’s track record of paying workers poverty wages makes it difficult for workers and residents to receive the adequate care they deserve and pay for.”

Chartwell Retirement Homes pay many of their staff minimum wage. In fact, most of their employees do not receive a living wage. To make matters worse, Chartwell has proposed all minimum wage employees have their wages frozen until 2020. These workers provide care and compassion to residents, work that is so important that the Ontario Labour Relations Board has consistently denied them the right to strike, putting them under the same legislation as other essential service providers, such as hospital workers.

“Chartwell needs to get its priorities in order,” continued Fortier. “Its Chair of the Board, Premier of Ontario Mike Harris takes home a hefty \$237,000 while front line workers, make abysmal, poverty wages.”

The union, representing Chartwell workers has organized a province-wide mobilization campaign under the banner of Pay Fair Chartwell. Unifor Local (1285) has organized an action to officially launch the campaign

- WHAT:** Pay Fair Chartwell Campaign Action
- WHERE:** 155 Riddell Road, Orangeville, ON L9W-6R4
- WHEN:** Monday March 4th, 2019. 1pm
- WHO:** Danny Price, 2nd Vice President Unifor Local 1285.

The campaign also features billboard advertisements in all Chartwell Retirement Home communities, a [petition](#) calling on Chartwell CEO Brent Binions and Chair of the Board Mike Harris to pay workers a decent, living wage and the “[Ask Hilda](#)” video series, providing the union its own take on Chartwell’s “Ask Edna” videos.



“Families and community members are in total shock when they learn about the outrageously low wages of Chartwell workers, said Danny Price, 2nd Vice President of Unifor Local 1285. “Chartwell has gotten away for far too long with not treating its workers with respect, and that is going to change now.”

Unifor represents more than 26,000 members in the health care sector. For more information on the campaign, visit unifor.org/payfairchartwell

Unifor is Canada's largest union in the private sector, representing 162,800 workers in Ontario, in every major area of the economy. The union advocates for all working people and their rights, fights for equality and social justice in Canada and abroad, and strives to create progressive change for a better future.

For more information, please contact (2nd Vice President Local 1285), Danny Price. danny@uniforlocal1285.ca or phone 905-451-8310, ext 225.