



March 18, 2020

To Unifor Local 229 Membership,

In the past 10 days, the situation regarding COVID-19 had moved quickly and created an unprecedented situation for many working people and Unifor Local 229 members.

Unifor Local 229 and Unifor Canada has adopted an all hands on deck approach to supporting members during these challenging and uncertain times. We have worked every day to answer questions, communicate with employers, and call on governments to flatten the curve and respect working people in this time of crisis.

Unifor will continue to monitor the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic across our region, as well as the sectors and workplaces of our union.

We are writing today to share some resources that will be of help to you and your loved ones across our membership.

COVID-19 Web Page

Visit www.unifor.org/covid19 for the most up to date union information, resources, and news on the coronavirus. At this point in the crisis, new information is posted daily, including a growing list of sector-specific backgrounders.

Frequently Asked Questions on COVID-19

If you have questions about EI sickness benefits, work absences, in-person meetings, and refusing work? Look no further. Unifor's FAQ on COVID-19 has the answers that union representatives need to represent workers during this crisis.

[Download the FAQ \(PDF\)](#)

COVID-19 Checklist for income replacement

This checklist sets out the possible measures that may be available for income replacement events including; sickness due to COVID-19, isolation or quarantine, family care obligations, and layoff or business closures.

[Download the checklist \(PDF\)](#)

Unifor Local 229 leadership and service representatives are currently working on scheduling mass townhall conference calls for each workplace of our Local union.

We have sent notice to employers and requested information regarding their approach to ensuring the well-being, safety and financial security of our members during this time. Many different workplaces and even departments within workplaces are making decisions which are affecting members in a variety of ways.



We have put our employers on notice and have requested the following measures be put in place and further that as we move forward in the coming weeks and months, any decision made now may be subject to the grievance procedure in the future. This will help us hold timelines and ensure once the immediate situation settles down, the ability to work out resolves to possible complaints.

Unifor Local 229's position we have put forward to our employers are as follows:

1. Keep our members safe, protected and informed
2. Keep our members whole, members need to keep being paid, their benefits need to be kept current
3. Allow accommodations for members who have health concerns or childcare concerns
4. Be reasonable, just, fair and equitable prior to making decisions affecting our members and our communities

Please watch for updated postings and notice of conference call townhall meetings for your workplaces coming in the next few days. Instructions on call in procedures, and how to forward your questions ahead of time will be shared. Visit our National Unifor website via www.Unifor.org or Unifor Local 229 website via www.unifor229.com for more information.

The leadership of Unifor Local 229 as well as our national union will continue to advocate on behalf of Unifor members and all workers as we demand greater protections for workers to prevent the spread and lessen the impacts of the pandemic.

Thank you for your dedication and solidarity.

In solidarity,

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