

February 16, 2018

Sisters and Brothers,

As you are aware, Unifor has disaffiliated from the Canadian Labour Congress on a matter of principle related to the enforcement/application of the CLC Constitution. Today we continue to face a situation where the leadership at the CLC continues to cherry-pick the pieces of the Constitution it wishes to enforce.

In previous correspondence, we have outlined the lack of political will within the CLC to address issues Unifor had been raising. One of the areas of concern is related to the affiliation provisions of the CLC Constitution. We all know the provisions requiring affiliates to belong to federations of labour and labour councils are never enforced.

The provision that requires unions to affiliate at the CLC before being permitted to affiliate at the federation and labour council levels is being enforced. The CLC President and affiliates have determined that these provisions of the Constitution will be applied to the letter and has therefore ordered the removal of all Unifor members from federations and labour councils.

It is quite ironic that these particular provisions are rigorously applied and enforced, but several other areas of the constitution are not, such as Articles 4, 26 and the affiliation provisions as they relate to mandatory affiliation to the Federations and labour councils.

Unifor locals should be aware that our Union has paid millions of dollars in per capita payments every year to federations and labour councils while other unions shirk their responsibility to the second and third layers of central labour bodies. Some have only ever affiliated at the national level. It is simply unfathomable that solidarity is never in question as long as you pay to the CLC.

Unifor local unions have been asking that we provide direction. We recommend that your local union immediately cease all per capita payments to federations of labour until further notice as every federation has told Unifor representatives that they can no longer hold their executive or standing committee positions and they cannot accept dues from Unifor locals.

In terms of labour councils, several councils have defied the edict of the CLC and have refused to remove Unifor from their councils. Where this has taken place and we are still participating in labour councils, we would ask that you continue to send your per-capita payments. If Unifor has been removed, please cease all per-capita payments.

When ceasing per-capita payments to federations and labour councils we are recommending that you consider putting these funds aside. Your National Executive Board will be reviewing a plan to continue supporting community activism in an upcoming meeting on March 7th. More information will follow.

Your national officers want to reiterate that Unifor is committed to working to find a solution to the problems with the CLC Constitution. We are committed to fighting for the rights of Canadian workers to be free from the interference from American parent unions. We are committed to finding a solution to Article 4 issues related to the rights of workers to change unions and to a fair funding model with provisions that ensure federations and labour councils do not suffer unnecessarily when a dispute happens at the CLC level of our movement.

Sisters and Brothers, our Union is an integral part of the Canadian labour movement. Our voice will continue to be effective and out front on issues important to working Canadians. Unifor has ceased affiliation to the CLC, but we will not be disengaging from our responsibilities or from the real work at collective and political bargaining tables and in the streets.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jerry Dias".

JERRY DIAS
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

CMD/JD/wwcope343

cc. National Executive Board, B. Orr, S. Doherty, R. Gagne, J. Ahn, S. Wark, D. Tveit, K. Fortier,
C. MacDonald, National Representatives