

December 19, 2019

To: All Bell and BTS Locals (Craft)

Re: Wireless To The Home Project

On December 3rd we were asked to attend a meeting in Montreal at the Bell Canada head office to discuss a new proposed Wireless To The Home project (WTTH) for internet in regions where there is no fibre optic infrastructure.

At that meeting it was clear to us that the WTTH project has long been in the works by Bell. According to the company, a pilot project had recently been concluded and they were purportedly looking to now determine who was going to do the work of connecting customers when the project was launched in 2019.

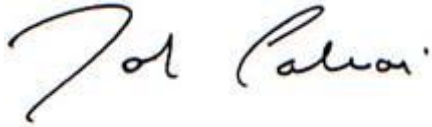
At the meeting the union expressed our desire to have this work done by the members covered under the Craft Collective agreement. The company indicated that they would consider this, but they had asked the President of BTS to join the meeting because he was being asked to submit a response to a Request For Proposals as well. Declan Brady also indicated that several vendors would also be bidding on this work (satellite contractors).

After the meeting concluded Unifor followed up with a letter to the company reinforcing our position. It is our view that this work is covered by our scope of work clause, and furthermore, as well as the terms of the Tripartite Agreement between Bell, BTS and Unifor.

It should be noted that after the meeting Unifor was sent some proof that this work is already underway in the field in Ontario and has been done by a company called Viewpoint. Clearly this is very problematic and in our view further demonstrates the lack of good faith in the company approach to their relationship with our union. We are currently reviewing our options and await a response from the company on this question specifically.

We will continue to work toward securing this work for the members of Unifor and will update you as things evolve.

In solidarity,



John Caluori
Assistant to the Quebec Director



Chris MacDonald
Assistant to the National President

CM:lmc/cope-343

cc: Tyson Siddall-Telecommunications Director, National Staff Servicing Bell and BTS Craft