# BTS ONTARIO

**November 16, 2026**

**Bargaining Unit Update**

Brothers and Sisters,

Following the recent meeting in Montreal between Unifor National Representatives and Bell Vice-Presidents, several rumours have circulated about the future of BTS. We want to clarify what was discussed and provide members with an accurate update.

The Montreal discussions primarily focused on Bell Mobility and the integration of some of its work into Bell Craft. There were no discussions concerning the future of BTS or layoffs at BTS. The information provided by the company concerning BTS workload and staffing was presented at the November 4 Ontario Labour Relations Committee (LRC) meeting, as outlined below.

**Workload and protecting bargaining unit work**

At the LRC, the company presented its workforce capacity outlook, projecting that workload in 2028 would be approximately half of its 2023 level. It also reported that approximately 10 per cent of the bargaining unit is part-time and that reduced hours under Article 16.03 had been used for 12 pay periods, or 24 weeks, so far this year.

We questioned why members continue to face reduced hours or Waiting by Phone assignments while customers experience service delays and contractors perform bargaining unit work. We specifically raised concerns about Telecon and challenged inconsistencies in the application of Article 16.03, including concerns involving RFT1 employees.

We also discussed the company's proposed settlement of the national policy grievance concerning cable pullers being moved into localities where technicians are on reduced hours. We have provided a formal written response to that proposal this morning and are waiting on the Company's response.

**Scheduling and call-outs**

Following a vote by provincial delegates, we formally requested the removal of island day preference selection. This feature was causing scheduling issues and resulting in senior

members receiving unfavourable schedules. The company advised that the selection will be removed in January, following the next eight-week schedule.

We also raised concerns about the call-out process for overtime and additional hours. The company reviewed daily employee loans and movements, including its September 20 to October 20 loan report, and work district changes.

**Benefits and return to work**

We pressed the company on the 29-day policy following a return from short-term disability, related documentation requirements and difficulties members have experienced with Manulife. Members experiencing issues with this scenario are encouraged to notify their local representatives immediately.

**HR and Labour Relations support**

The company presented its new Human Resources and Labour Relations support model. Its stated process requires an initial discussion with a manager or submission of an HR ticket before a matter is escalated to Labour Relations. This is more direction for the union reps across the province, but really doesn't change the current process already in place.

**Outstanding issues and upcoming meetings**

The tentative LRC dates for 2027 are February 24, May 19, September 15 and November 24. All of which are subject to change. We will provide updates to you all when necessary.

We will continue pursuing the outstanding issues, protecting bargaining unit work and holding the company accountable for its commitments. Please continue reporting scheduling, reduced-hours and contracting-out concerns to your local union representatives.

We understand that rumours create uncertainty. We will provide members with verified information as it becomes available.

**In solidarity,**

**Your BTS Ontario Bargaining Committee**

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| **Jim Fling** | **Local 34-O** |
| **Jeff Mark** | **Local 47** |
| **Drew Kerrigan** | **Local 42** |
| **Colum Lynn** | **Local 1996-O** |
| **Clayton Nunn** | **National Representative** |

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