

UA LOCAL 46 TORONTO

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May 1, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Employment

As of today, there are over 9,300 members in Local 46. This includes all active journeymen, apprentices and retired members. Currently, we have 4,803 journeymen and 1,136 apprentices working. In total we have 6,432 members employed in all sectors. At present, there are 1,101 journeymen and 269 apprentices (for a total 1,371 members) unemployed. The remaining members are our retired members or members who may be on long-term or short-term disability.

On March 1, 2020 prior to the outbreak of COVID-19, Local 46 had 528 journeymen and 48 apprentices unemployed for a total of 576. The government's decision to make the vast majority of construction essential, a handful of sites that shut down and members choosing to stay home through this pandemic have all impacted our numbers. The total number of unemployed members has increased by 759, an increase of 12.4%, although this number fluctuates daily. The work in all sectors has been picking up with dispatches going out daily and will continue to increase as the provincial government gradually opens the economy.

I would like to thank our members who continue to work through this pandemic, keeping the city and the economy running. You are the unsung essential workers who are often overlooked in press releases.

Dues Relief

The Local 46 dues department is working on dues relief for the month of April 2020, and thereafter on a month-to-month basis at the direction and discretion of General Secretary-Treasurer, Patrick Kellett and General President, Mark McManus in a letter dated April 8, 2020. Local 46 will cover the fixed monthly dues (i.e., union dues) of all non-retired members who performed 40 or fewer hours of UA work in the previous calendar month. For example, if a member performed only 32 hours of UA work in March, his or her monthly dues for April will be covered by the Local. Non-retired members who performed over 40 hours of UA work in the previous calendar month, and members who are legitimately retired, shall not be eligible for relief the following month.

Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)

To assist with the financial uncertainty, the federal government introduced the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) on March 15, 2020. Unfortunately, everyone who finds themselves out of

work after March 15, has been funneled into the CERB benefit rather than Employment Insurance, which prevents our members from claiming the Supplementary Unemployment Benefit (SUB). Our SUB plan is registered with Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) under the *Employment Insurance Act* and is only permitted as a top-up payment to employees who are receiving unemployment benefits under the EI Act. The Local 46 Trustees have been actively involved in conversations with the federal government lobbying to permit the SUB Plan to offer top-up payments in conjunction with CERB payments and are hopeful the Federal Government corrects this oversight. Please feel free to contact your local MP to voice your concerns with this matter.

Local 46 is monitoring both Local and Federal Government media releases and will inform the membership with any pertinent information as soon as we can. Please continue to look to the official Local 46 website for relevant updates. <https://www.ualocal46.org/>

I hope all our members and their families are staying safe. If you know any senior members, check in to ensure they are doing okay during this isolation and as always, please don't hesitate to contact any of your union representatives if you have any questions or concerns.

Fraternal Regards,



Robert Brooker
Business Manager
United Association, Local 46

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