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March 26, 2020

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

I want to take a few minutes to let you know we all understand how frustrated you must be during this time. We share that frustration. This is an unprecedented situation and we recognize that everyone is under a huge amount of stress. There is a considerable amount of information being circulated, most of it is accurate, some of it is not. The information can feel redundant and unhelpful at times. Let me assure you that your team of Officers are working diligently on your behalf. Our top priority is to keep our members and their families safe.

As much as we would like to, Local 46 is not in a legal position to shut down sites as this would constitute an illegal work stoppage and be contrary to the Collective Agreements in place. In conjunction with the OPTC, the COBT and various local unions, we continue to lobby the government for safe working conditions and the creation of new policies to safeguard our members from being exposed to unnecessary risk. Conference calls take place daily and we will leave no stone unturned in an attempt to assist our members. Our office is open to staff-please call or email if you have questions.

We've received information about several jobsites having unsanitary work conditions. Let me be clear-if you feel unsafe due to jobsites not meeting safety standards, each and every member has the right to refuse unsafe work. Take pictures of your concerns and document who you reported the issues to and when. Pass this information to your Shop Steward or your Union Representative so we can follow up with your employer. Members also have the right to contact the Ministry of Labour toll-free at 1-877-202-0008 to report these unsanitary conditions. I would urge you to continue following the advice being released from various levels of government and health officials. Please take as many precautions as possible to avoid the spread of COVID-19. If you can stay home during this time, we highly recommend it. We realize some members still wish to work in order to provide for their families. If this is the case, please stay safe and practice social distancing as much as possible.

In a continued effort to keep our members up to date, please feel free to visit the websites below as they have a myriad of helpful information and are updated as necessary.

<https://www.ualocal46.org/>

<https://www.toronto.ca/home/covid-19/>

<https://www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/hs/index.php>.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html>

As always, feel free to contact your Union Representative if you have any questions or concerns.
All our contact information can be found inside the Trade Wind.

Wash your hands, practice social distancing and stay home when possible.

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert Brooker".

Robert Brooker
Business Manager
United Association, Local 46

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