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June 29, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We are greatly distressed to hear of recent racist and hateful actions that have taken place at worksites in the City where our members go to work to provide for their families. We're shocked by this type of behaviour and will not tolerate any members, regardless of racial or cultural background, being subjected to intolerant and harassing behaviour. Hateful actions based on race and skin colour impact everyone and racism is dehumanizing to everyone it touches. Local 46 strives to provide a culture and environment that allows people to work free of discrimination and intolerance. We are committed to eliminating any racist actions within our Association. We believe in the elimination of racist and oppressive systems in society as well as in creating opportunities for racialized minorities and these are objectives we, as a collective, have been working towards with programs such as Hammer Heads.

We work together on many jobsites and are responsible for each others safety and welfare. That is the strength of our Local and the Union movement. An injury to one is an injury to all. Local 46 has called for the perpetrators of these acts to be brought to justice so our members, especially those from racialized communities, feel safe and unthreatened. We stand behind all our Brothers and Sisters and will not tolerate, nor do we condone this type of behaviour.

Our commitment also extends to working with relevant authorities to identify individuals who have perpetrated these actions. Our members who work tirelessly and without incident do not deserve to be seen by the public as intolerant members of society. To prevent the repetition of this behaviour, we ask our members to report any intolerant behaviour to your area Business Representative. This is a task that falls upon us all on a day to day basis, irrespective of which jobsite you work on.

Local 46 stands by our members and in solidarity with racialized members to ensure everyone is safe from all forms of harassment. These are difficult times and I encourage all our members to join us in solidarity to protect members from racialized backgrounds. I am confident you will rise to this mission.

Regards,

Robert Brooker
Business Manager
United Association, Local 46

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