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Joint COVID Bulletin #3

We write to update our members on the campaign to fight transit layoffs and on our labour board application.

Last Saturday, Unifor held a digital rally with Local 111 & 2200 and National leadership. Unifor National President, Jerry Dias and Western Regional Director, Gavin McGarrigle took questions in real-time during this event which had hundreds of views and comments.

This digital rally asked our members to immediately contact your Member of Parliament (MP) and your provincial MLA's to demand that these layoffs are immediately rescinded and that emergency funding be put in place to ensure our transit system is fully functional, for the safety of our members and the safety of the public and essential workers who need to get to and from work.

Please go to www.unifor.org/peopleneedtransit to sign the petition to these politicians and please share the link widely.

If you missed it, the digital rally is available online and has been viewed over 30,000 times to date. You can view and share the full digital rally here:

<https://www.facebook.com/UniforCanada/videos/265304498196122/>

The Labour Relations Board Vice-Chair assigned to our section 54 application held a conference call today with the Employer and the Union and a timeline for submissions from each party was set out. The Employer's submission in response to the Union's application is due on Monday, May 4. The Union's reply submission is due on Wednesday, May 6. The Labour Board Vice-Chair indicated that he would hold a further conference call on Thursday, May 7 to determine if a hearing needs to be held or if a decision can be made based on the submissions. We are also in touch with legal counsel for the unions representing BC Ferries workers and ATU in West Vancouver as they are dealing with similar issues.

We ask all members to report any pass-ups or difficulties with the cuts that have already occurred to your union representatives. We are seeking specific examples of where crowding is occurring and/or where essential service workers will be affected with these cuts and future cuts.

Information about the union's response to the pandemic, as well as resources for members can be found at unifor.org/COVID19

We thank you for your support and will continue to fight hard and will provide further updates as we learn new information.

In solidarity,

Balbir Mann
Unifor Local 111 President

Mike Smith
Unifor Local 2200 President

Gavin McGarrigle
Unifor Western Regional Director

Ben Williams
Unifor National Rep