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## Joint COVID Bulletin #2

Following our calls with the Company last Saturday and Sunday, the Employer advised that it would move forward with layoff notices of our members. Although we had some general sense of the numbers they were looking at, they did not provide a specific list of affected employees or exact numbers until Monday morning as their supervisors started contacting members.

We had clearly raised our concern during the weekend calls that we believed a longer period of notice than that provided in the collective agreement in accordance with section 54 of the Labour Code. The Employer chose to ignore our request for at least sixty (60) days notice of layoff and never provided any explanation why it failed to do so.

Accordingly, we have now filed an application at the BC Labour Relations Board under section 54 of the *Labour Relations Code*. Our position is that sixty (60) days notice or pay in lieu of notice is required in these circumstances. We are seeking to have all the layoff notices rescinded, or, at a minimum, for workers to be fully paid in lieu of the sixty (60) day notice. As you know, further layoffs may be pending and our position will be the same in terms of the required notice or pay in lieu.

The section 54 provisions also obligate an Employer to begin negotiating an adjustment plan in good faith with the Union and we will keep you updated on developments with this application as it moves forward.

Additionally, we have also continued our efforts to have the higher levels of government provide emergency transit funding so that we do not see layoffs of transit workers. We have been in touch with provincial officials and our National President Jerry Dias has written to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and various cabinet ministers to press strongly for this funding.

We have also published an opinion editorial in the Vancouver Province yesterday which we ask all members to share widely: <https://theprovince.com/opinion/gavin-mcgarrigle-a-weakened-transit-system-damages-metros-fight-against-covid-19>

We are asking members to contact your Member of Parliament (MP) and your provincial MLA's to demand that these layoffs are immediately rescinded and that emergency funding be put in place to ensure our transit system is fully functional, for the safety of our members and the safety of the public and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.

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

We will continue to fight hard on your behalf and thank everyone for the words of encouragement. We will have more activities to report in the near future as we continue to fight these reckless and irresponsible cuts.

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