



# TCRC NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

T E A M S T E R S C A N A D A R A I L C O N F E R E N C E

130 Albert Street, Suite 1510, Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 5G4 ~ [www.teamstersrail.ca](http://www.teamstersrail.ca)

## A message from the President.

The last few months have proven to be very challenging for the membership as well as your Union Officers at all levels of our organization. We are working together as a collective to try and mitigate the ramifications of the blockades and now the COVID-19 pandemic on our membership. As we anticipate the dangers of this virus escalating, we have tried to ensure that the health and safety of our members is protected and to reduce the economic impact as much as possible. I ask that each and every one of you take the necessary precautions to protect yourselves, your family, co-workers and communities during this time.

As an update on the Work/Rest rules, the rail companies have not made a final submission to date. We have lobbied Transport Canada and the Minister of Transport's office directly to set a mandatory date by ministerial order to no avail. We will keep applying pressure on the government until such time that the companies provide their submission and move this process to the next step, which will be our response to their submission.

The Part 3 changes to the Canada Labour Code and their application to our industry is still being determined. In consultation with Teamsters Canada, we have made multiple submissions on different aspects of the changes and the relevance in our working environment. We are currently waiting on Labour Canada for clarification on certain aspects regarding personal and medical leave.



The CN CTY ratified their tentative agreement on January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020. This agreement was ratified by electronic vote with some encouraging participation numbers, 3258 ballots sent out, 66.3% returned with 91.3% in favor. This reflects the largest return of ballots in our recent history, I believe this is a positive sign that our members are becoming more engaged in our Union. Congratulations to our bargaining team!

In Solidarity,

Lyndon Isaak  
President – TCRC

## Executive Board Activities

### TCRC Executive Board

Lyndon Isaak: President  
 Dave McCulloch: Vice-President  
 Christopher Friesen: Secretary-Treasurer  
 Paul Boucher: Recording Secretary  
 Harvey Makoski: Trustee  
 Jean-Michel Hallé: Trustee  
 Ryan Finnon: Trustee

The TCRC Executive Board met on January 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The following is a summary of the decisions and actions that affect the entire TCRC membership:

- A “Dues Maintenance Policy” was passed and the TCRC bylaws were modified by the Executive Board to enable members who are not working due to layoff, sickness, etc. an **option** to maintain good standing with the Union, by paying reduced Union dues. More details to follow shortly.
- Tuesday April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020 is the National Day of Mourning to remember our fallen Brothers and Sisters. With that in mind the National Executive Board passed a motion to create a “Memorial Book” which will contain the names of Brothers and Sisters who perished while at work. When finished, the plan is that this book will be on display at the National Office in Ottawa as well as special events.
- We discussed training and education programs and budgets for our TCRC members. All of these courses are on hold due to recent developments with the coronavirus.
- The Executive Board continued discussions concerning the location for the 2022 National Convention. We have narrowed our options down and should have a decision made by the next newsletter.
- The next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for April 2020.

# Teamsters Canada Youth Committee



For the week of February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020, I was lucky enough to join the youth committee in Ottawa for the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) lobby day. The week started off with a quick rundown Monday night on the items we will be lobbying for. We were mixed in with other unions from across Canada and had a meeting set up with MPs that were close to us. My schedule meetings were with, Robert Kitchener, Conservative MP from Souris-Moose Mountain Southern Saskatchewan, Dan Vandal, Liberal MP from Saint Boniface-Saint Vital Winnipeg, and Jim Carr, Liberal MP from Winnipeg South Centre. Two full reports from my meetings are available upon request, Jim Carr did not show up for our scheduled meeting.

The CLC helped to carry our message to create a National Pharmacare Program, establish a \$15 federal minimum wage, secure workplaces against violence and harassment, and protect workers and pensioners when employers file for bankruptcy. In total, we had 378 participants meet with 184 MPs and Senators. I personally stuck with Pensions due to the TCRC's ongoing fights with government. No railroader should forget that both the Conservatives and Liberals have taken swings at our Pensions. I am happy to fight for the TCRC, and all Unions in Canada, to protect our pensions. I met with Phil Benson, a prominent Teamsters Canada Lobbyist. He was also out with the CLC this week.

Other meetings for the week included regular TCYC meetings, focused on social media planning, a debriefing from myself about our strike for Conductors against CN, and a focus on getting the Youth committee out into the public to meet more Teamsters Canada wide. The TCYC has also agreed to take a hard look at their Bylaws and I am happy to report that I will be proposing some changes.

In solidarity,

Sheldon King  
TCYC Representative for the Rail Conference



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