



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

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A message from the President

As the upcoming Federal election quickly approaches, our current government is scrambling to show the labour sector that the Liberals are working diligently on our behalf. Many of you may question why Minister Garneau has ordered the railways to resubmit their update to the work/rest rules as opposed to Transport Canada moving ahead and creating the mandated update internally (see article below). Coincidentally, ESDC (Labour Canada) is currently working on updating Part 3 of the Canada Labour Code which may also affect our members (see article below). Ideally, we would have liked to finish dealing with the work/rest rules and subsequently deal with the Part 3 updates after.

It would seem to me that these processes are now being rushed in order to convince the Labour Unions and Canadian workers that the Liberal government is their best option in this election. The importance of this election should not be ignored. I believe that each and everyone of us should speak to the Member of Parliament candidates in your riding and ensure that the significance of these changes and the resulting impact on our work life balance is understood.

Lastly, the most important part of this message; Democracy only works when you exercise your rights. MAKE SURE YOU VOTE!



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 Finnsen: Trustee

The TCRC Executive Board met on July 16 – July 17, 2019. The following is a summary of the decisions and actions that affect the entire TCRC membership.

- The Executive Board noted that the 2018 version of the TCRC bylaws had a couple of errors/oversights. Please refer to my letter of July 31st for details.
- We received three nominations for the Teamsters Canada Youth Committee. The candidate selected by the TCRC Executive Board was Brother Sheldon King from Division 583 (Winnipeg).
- On July 5th Roland Hackl notified the TCRC Executive Board that he had received an appointment to the CIRB. Our best wishes to Roland in his new career.
- The Executive Board debated and developed some internal policies concerning donations, trusteeship, GCAs requesting help with negotiations and updated the TCRC harassment policy.
- The Executive Board also discussed the direction, expectations and plan for our Education program.

- After considering all options for travel in western Canada including airfares, car leases and rentals, taxi costs and personal car allowances, the TCRC Executive Board elected to purchase vehicles for the use of the President and Vice President. It was determined that purchasing vehicles was the most cost-effective option for the membership. To be clear, these vehicles are owned by the TCRC. Beyond the savings on travel costs to the major cities, this purchase also provides the additional benefit of travelling to many of the TCRC divisions in Western Canada which are in remote locations.
- The next Executive Board meeting will be held in October 2019.

News

Work Rest Rules



The following is an excerpt from a letter the National Office received from the Minister of Transport regarding work rest rules:

I (Minister of Transport) am writing with regard to Ministerial Order (MO) 18-01, issued on December 20, 2018, in accordance with subsection 19(1) of the Railway Safety Act (RSA).

As I have previously stated, the Government of Canada is committed to the timely adoption and promotion of safe operating practices for railway companies and their employees. In particular, we all recognize that fatigue can severely affect human performance and ultimately compromise railway safety. That is why I instructed railway companies to revise the Work/Rest Rules for Railway Operating Employees, to ensure that they reflect the latest science and fatigue management practices.

I would like to inform you that I have refused to approve the submissions submitted by railway companies in response to the MO 18-01 as they clearly do not address the fatigue-related risks identified in the Ministerial Order. The notice of refusal is enclosed.

I have provided railway companies an opportunity to re-draft the proposed rules and to submit further rules to Transport Canada by November 1, 2019. In order to ensure better results this time, additional information on Transport Canada's expectation with regard to rules and limits for all eight fatigue-related elements included in the original Ministerial Order has been provided to railway companies.

I have also made it clear to railway companies that failure to produce further acceptable rules that are based on fatigue science will result in Transport Canada's exploring alternative means to address the issue of railway employee fatigue, including the development of rules or regulations.

The Union had some preliminary discussions with industry on process and timelines and anticipate consultations to continue throughout the fall with a draft rule submitted for approval early next year.

We will continue providing commentary and input in this process to ensure the safety and interests of our members is protected.

Modernization of the Canada Labour Code (Part 3)

The Liberal government has mandated ESDC (Labour Canada) to modernize Part 3 of the Canada Labour Code through bills C63 and C86. The amendments include;

- 96 hours' written notice of work schedules
- 24 hours' written notice of shift change
- 8-hour rest period between work periods or shifts
- 30-minute break within every five hours of work
- Right to refuse overtime to carry out family responsibilities (related to the health or care of a family member or related to the education of a family member under the age of 18) only if the employee has taken reasonable steps to carry out their responsibility by other means

Historically most TCRC members have been exempt from scheduling and overtime provisions contained in Part 3. The application of these updates on the rail industry has yet to be determined. The interpretive documents which provide the guidance around the application of these updates are not finalized, additionally the railway companies have requested certain exemptions to these amendments. Although ESDC states that these changes will come into effect September 01, 2019, it is not advisable to act on these amendments until this process is completed.

We are currently working with Teamsters Canada to coordinate a united front to protect the interests of all the Teamsters membership.

Teamsters in the Community



Members of TCRC Division 945 (Vancouver) attended the Fraser Valley Pride Celebration on July 20th in Abbotsford, B.C. This presented an opportunity for rank and file TCRC members to connect with their community in a positive way. We hope that by showing the human side of Trade Unionism, we can begin to counter the anti-Union Lobby. Free cotton candy and reusable cloth grocery bags bearing the TCRC Logo were a hit with attendees. The bags were also loaded with stickers, temporary tattoos, and pamphlets containing information about Teamsters Canada. I would like to thank the TCRC National Office for supporting this event by providing the cloth grocery bag handouts. I am excited about any opportunity that we have to show Unionism and in particular the TCRC in a positive way. All the while educating our communities about the role of collective bargaining in building up the middle class in an environment that generally favours corporate interests.

Dustin Saunders- TCRC Division 945