

To All Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to start by expressing my gratitude to all the membership for your patience and hard work during this historically unprecedented and stressful time. We here at the Local continue to relay any and all health and safety information that pertains to construction and service work as we get it from the various institutions, associations, provincial and federal government agencies. We are fielding hundreds of calls relating to our health and welfare program, short term disability program and how that applies in this situation. I would encourage everyone that is looking for information to constantly check the ua516.org website as new information is being added minute by minute and hour by hour. Please contact us at 604-882-8212 or info@ua516.org if any pertinent information is missing.

The day to day operation of Local 516 continues to be at one hundred percent and will remain as such throughout this crisis. The office is open to emails and phone calls but will remain closed to walk-ins and meetings at this time.

I have had conference calls with the B.C. Building Trades, UA Head Office, and the B.C. Labour Minister the Honorable Harry Bains in the past two days, and the consensus is that we are all to continue working as best and as safe as we can to keep our economy, communities, and the essential services online. I cannot stress this enough: **DO YOUR WORK IN AS SAFE A MANNER AS YOU POSSIBLY CAN**, practice social distancing, wash your hands regularly, and use all applicable safety equipment while carrying out your duties. There will be, and have been, many concerns over safety, and I encourage you all to contact myself or your Business Agent, Lee Taylor, if you are concerned about an unsafe work situation. We will assist in any way we possibly can. This may be a longer and more drawn out situation then was originally stated by government, so I encourage our membership to continue to work, but work safely. If layoffs occur during this pandemic, seniority will remain in place, last hired will be first to be laid off and everyone will retain their seniority upon re-hire. Having said that, I am encouraging companies to spread the work around as best they can and keep members working as long as they can. The Employment Insurance requirements and benefits are evolving daily, and we will post updates on our website and social media as we receive new information. The Province of BC has just released a stimulus and relief package of 5 billion dollars; we have those details posted on our website and on our UA Local 516 social media pages. I am in constant contact with BC Building Trades and UA Head Office. Any information I receive, I will relay to the membership immediately on our website at ua516.org and through our email list. If you don't already receive the emails, you can sign up through the website or send a request to be added via info@ua516.org.

Please be safe out there brothers and sisters, we will get through this.

Fraternally,

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