



TO: ALL GNWT MEMBERS

RE: COVID-19 Concerns and Cooperation

The UNW would like to reassure members that we have been meeting or speaking with GNWT officials almost daily to get updates and copies of documents related to their COVID-19 response.

To date, we have requested copies of all GNWT COVID-19 policies, including those governing the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) for all GNWT worksites.

It is our understanding that the Employer is providing policies with regards to PPE that are in line with WHO/RNANT/NU recommendations. If this is incorrect, or if you are not being informed of the policies, or if you are receiving direction that is in contradiction to the policies, please let your Union know.

Because we are not experts in every workplace's OHS requirements, we are relying on members who know their workplace and their field of work to inform us of any health and safety issues.

It is more important than ever to work with your OHS committees and Local executive, and to come forward with any specific issues that your Union should know about. While members deserve to be kept informed, the Union also relies on members to bring front-line information to our attention.

While complaints to the media or posts on social media may seem like appropriate avenues to address concerns, they are hard to substantiate and make it difficult for your Union to take real action. Direct communication from members that provides detailed information is required for the UNW to file any grievances necessary to address issues workers may be facing.

Ideally, your Local should be meeting with management regularly – if not daily – under these circumstances, and communicating with UNW HQ and with members.

It is important that members continue to contact their Local representatives, even if it is only a short email or phone call. UNW Service Officers can also assist with individual issues of collective agreement violations and health & safety matters.

We are all in this together, and we commit to maintaining open communication with our members to provide – and also to receive – important updates and information regarding the effects of COVID-19 on our workplaces.

In Solidarity,

Todd Parsons
UNW President