
JERRY DIAS
*National President
Président national*

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*Quebec Director
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*National Secretary-Treasurer
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January 20, 2015

Sent by mail, fax (613) 995-6856 and email: steven.blaney@parl.gc.ca

The Honourable Steven Blaney
Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Minister,

Re: Unifor petitions for armoured car safety standards

Over the past year our union has held productive discussions on matters relating to the armoured car industry safety standards with representatives of your policing policy directorate, as well as various provincial officials, sister unions, industry representatives and other interested stakeholders.

Our union commits to continuing this useful dialogue in 2015. We will continue to push for stronger safety standards in the armoured car industry that aim to better protect workers while on the job as well as ensure the safety of the public. As you are no doubt aware, another high profile attempted robbery of a two-person armoured car crew took place on December 11, at a TD Bank located in an Ajax, Ontario strip mall sending two workers to hospital. Less than two weeks later, on December 21, an armoured vehicle was stolen by thieves in Montreal during a routine pick up. Every robbery attempt puts lives at risk. Every robbery attempt is one too many.

Minister, it has been more than one year since I first reached out to you in the hopes of arranging a meeting. As Canada's chief officer for public safety, it is important that armoured car workers be given the opportunity to speak with you directly about their experiences, and the real dangers Canadians face as a result of inadequate workplace safety protocols and provisions.

As I have stated in previous correspondence, we would like to discuss with you the possibility of spearheading a Task Force on the armoured car industry to undertake comprehensive policy research, gather stakeholders' views and develop recommendations and legislative guidance.

Attached you will find a copy of a petition, signed by hundreds of armoured car workers and Unifor members (then members of the Canadian Auto Workers union). Building on our union's "Armed and Safe" policy paper, the petition calls on the federal government to develop a comprehensive regulatory framework for the armoured car industry, establish minimum standards on employee training, vehicle specifications, crew compliments and safety equipment. We believe your office is best positioned to move these issues forward.

Minister, on behalf of the 2,000 Unifor members working in the armoured car industry I ask once again for the opportunity to meet with you, at your earliest convenience, to discuss these matters further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jerry Dias".

Jerry Dias
National President

ADC/JD/kw:cope.343

cc: Randall Garrison, Official Opposition Critic for Public Safety randall.garrison@parl.gc.ca
Wayne Easter, Public Safety Critic, Liberal Party of Canada wayne.easter@parl.gc.ca
Bob Orr, Assistant to the National President, Unifor
Angelo DiCaro, National Representative, Unifor