

January 17, 2018

Hassan Yussuff, President
Canadian Labour Congress
2841 Riverside Dr
Ottawa, ON K1V 8X7

Via Email: hyussuff@clc-ctc.ca

Dear Brother Yussuff:

I write today to make you aware of a decision of the Unifor National Executive Board on January 16, 2018.

First, I believe as president of the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) you have worked incredibly hard to make the congress a progressive movement and to also ensure that Article 4 is effective. Unfortunately, over the course of the past year there have been several instances of grave concern to Unifor which remain unaddressed by CLC affiliates.

At its core, the issues are rooted in an inability of affiliates of the CLC to allow Article 4 to be applied as it was intended. Article 4 allows for a democratic process for workers to change unions. Affiliates agreed to the process, but in practice do not truly wish to grant members the rights Article 4 was intended to provide workers. The evidence is before us - very few members have ever changed unions through the justification process. Affiliates simply do not co-operate and frustrate the process.

The fact is, unions fought hard to have the Supreme Court of Canada recognize the rights of workers to have a union of their choice, but then forget this principle when preventing members from exercising their rights under Article 4.

At meetings of the Canadian Council affiliates in 2017 it was agreed that an advisory committee would be struck to provide interpretation guidelines to the CLC for Article 4. Despite two letters having been sent to your attention requesting Unifor have a seat on that committee, we have received no response. The committee has met and Unifor is yet to have representation. This is totally unacceptable given that Unifor has cooperated more than any other union in the Article 4 justification process. It is unfathomable that the largest private sector Canadian union would not be part of this work.

The Article 4 issues coupled with the inability of the CLC to deal with now two instances of U.S.-based unions interfering in elections and imposing trusteeship on Canadian local unions leaves Unifor at odds with many in the Canadian labour movement.

Article 26 of the CLC constitution insists on Canadian components of U.S.-based unions having autonomy, but when the rubber hits the road, CLC lacks the ability to ensure U.S.-based unions have

legitimate elections of Canadian leadership and as a result American-based unions are able to impose their will on Canadian locals. Unifor submits that contrary to the requirement of the CLC constitution, several U.S.-based unions do not have legitimate Canadian operations with autonomy from American interference.

Unifor is routinely vilified by others for our principled position on these issues and our attempts to raise them are met with accusations and assertions that are without merit.

For these reasons, Unifor's National Executive Board voted to cease affiliation to the CLC effective immediately.

A cheque for all amounts owing to date will accompany this letter.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jerry Dias".

JERRY DIAS
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

JD/CM:wwcope343