January 24, 2018

Toronto City Council
100 Queen St W
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Toronto City Council,

RE: 2018 Motion to declare January 29 as a Day of Remembrance and Action on Islamophobia

On behalf of the approximate 57,000 members of Unifor working and/or living in the Greater Toronto Area, I am writing to you in support of the motion to declare January 29 as a Day of Remembrance and Action on Islamophobia in Toronto, and to support council’s formal request to the Province of Ontario and the Government of Canada to make similar declarations.

Like many Torontonians, we were deeply shocked and saddened by last January’s devastating terrorist attack on the Quebec City Islamic Cultural Centre that claimed the lives of six Muslim worshipers and injured many others. This was an unprecedented attack in Canadian history on a place of worship that turned a sacred sanctuary into a place of carnage.

Unifor is committed to social justice, inclusiveness and championing human rights for all people, in Canada and abroad. It is a fundamental right to be able to gather to worship, to advocate for equity, to be respected in our jobs and to earn a decent and fair wage. Anything short of this is an affront to our values as a progressive movement.

As a city council you can play an important role in establishing and governing the social justice and economic policies that reflect the city. Racism, bigotry and exclusion in all its forms should not be tolerated and a strong endorsement from the City of Toronto against these injustices is strongly supported by our union. Unifor remains committed to continue to work vigilantly against Islamophobia and all hate-based violence in the workplace and the community.

Our union is in complete support of city council designating January 29 as a Day of Remembrance and Action on Islamophobia. As your constituents, we urge you to vote in favor of the motion coming to council.

In solidarity,

Naureen Rizvi
Ontario Regional Director