Unifor statement on International Migrants Day

December 18, 2019

On International Migrants Day, Unifor reaffirms its strong commitment to protecting the rights of migrants.

“Unifor is one of Canada’s leaders in the fight for migrant workers’ rights,” said Jerry Dias, Unifor National President. “We’re on the front lines, demanding that government and big business recognize and respect the valuable contributions of migrant workers. We need a system overhaul that prioritizes workers over corporations and rich CEOs.”

Immigration has been an essential part of building Canada into what it is today: a country that celebrates multiculturalism and diversity. Migrants make substantial contributions to the Canadian economy and support its overall growth.

“All migrants should be entitled to equal protection of their intrinsic human rights, regardless of their status,” said Christine Maclin, Unifor Human Rights Director.

As right-wing governments are eroding workers’ rights by cutting public services and social programs, attacking organized labour, and destroying protections for migrant workers – now more than ever the rights of migrants must be recognized and enhanced.

Globally we have seen attacks and alt-right politics making immigration a dividing issue, despite governments and rich CEOs being responsible for the downturn of big business.

Unifor is a union for everyone – and will continue to support people, businesses, and governments that are making significant improvements to the rights and protections of migrants.