



Dear members,

We know you have been following the day-to-day developments of the COVID-19 pandemic in our country and all over the world. We are seeing the impact on workers and their families, including on our workplaces in the rail sector.

For ongoing updates on Unifor’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as resources for Local Unions and members, visit unifor.org/covid19. New resources include **Frequently Asked Questions on COVID-19 and COVID-19 Checklist for income replacement.**

For the most up to date health information, consult your regional health agency or Public Health Canada. You will find a complete list of resources including updates on the government's responses on their [website](#).

A number of Unifor employers in Rail have taken action in response to the pandemic, including interruptions to scheduled bargaining; here is a summary of updates as of March 17, 2020.

Canadian National Railway

CN is reporting a significant surge in domestic Intermodal traffic as the shipment of essential goods and supplies, such as groceries and toilet paper, is in high demand. This has seen members recalled from layoffs from the previous reductions due to a downturn in rail traffic, as well as the recent layoffs following the rail line blockades.

The Company is looking at implementing alternate shift schedules as to limit possible exposure and the spreading of the virus in the work place. They are trying limit the amount of employees/members on a shift as to attempt social distancing in the workplace as much as possible. CN has also increased the cleaning and sanitization of its work spaces and common areas. CN has covered its employees by paying the 14 day self isolation time for members who have travelled internationally, however have identified that anyone travelling after the date of March 13 2020 will not be paid to self isolate.

CN Transportation Ltd. (CNTL)

CN is reporting a significant surge in domestic Intermodal traffic as the shipment of essential goods and supplies, such as groceries and toilet paper, is in high demand. Based on the intensified demand to domestic Intermodal traffic, the 1,000 CNTL Owner-Operator members will likely remain busy as they haul CN’s Intermodal traffic to

customers and supply chains after it is removed from rail cars, or alternatively, from customers and supply chains to CN Intermodal Terminals. We also addressing the issue of the 'finger scans' that are required of CNTL Owner-Operators to access the in gates at most CN Intermodal Terminals. Obviously, with concerns of the COVID-19 pandemic, this is a legitimate concern of these members.

Canadian Pacific Railway

Canadian Pacific Railway has been working with members who have travelled internationally and are covering wages during these self isolation periods. CP is choosing to do this on a case by case basis, without putting a definitive policy or timeline, citing that every case has its own unique circumstances.

CP has taken heightened precautions in its workplaces and common areas and have increased the sanitization and cleaning of these areas as well their equipment; a healthy workforce is CP's top priority and the employer is working closely with the Local Unions. The Company has relaxed its Bank Hour Reclaim requirements, the granting of AV allotments, personal days and will not contest any EI claims.

The union has been advised that there will be more announced in the next 48 hours, following Trudeau's announcement on March 16.

Hudson's Bay Railway

Hudson's Bay Railway at this point unaffected and has taken extra precautionary sanitization and cleaning of its passenger trains coaches, common areas and workspaces.

Bargaining has been productive and a tentative agreement has been reached and are now waiting for dates on when ratification votes will be held.

Procor Edmonton

Bargaining was to open in Edmonton with Procor on Tuesday, March 17 to Thursday, March 19 but was cancelled due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The union is looking at exchanging our respective bargaining proposals via email and hold a subsequent conference call to explain the proposals. We will then determine how to proceed further.

Toronto Terminals Railway (TTR)

Bargaining was to open in Toronto with Toronto Terminals Railway (TTR) on Friday, March 20 to exchange our respective bargaining proposals but was cancelled due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The union will look to exchange demands via email and hold a subsequent conference call to explain the proposals and then determine subsequent dates to start actual bargaining and then how we proceed further given today's challenges.

Toronto Terminals Railway-West

Toronto Terminals Railway (West) is contemplating laying off four employees/members due to their projected decrease in bulk commodity traffic. Like CN and CP, TTR is working with employees/members who are required

to self isolate and who travelled prior to the Health Officials advising not to travel to certain locations. TTR is using this as a guidance when making a determination as to what employee/member will be paid to self-isolate.

VIA Rail Canada

VIA Rail has shut down operations of the Canadian train (Toronto to Vancouver) and Ocean train (Atlantic Canada) for at least two weeks. Depending on what the federal government dictates over the coming days, this period may be extended. Operations on the Windsor-Quebec City Corridor is being reduced by 50% at the moment, but may also be reduced further if mandated by the federal government over the coming days. The union has secured wage protections for now for the members whose work cycles have been suspended until further notice, but this does not mean the protections are indefinite. VIA Rail will revisit these protections in the next couple of weeks.

VIA Rail bargaining for Council 4000 members working under Agreements No. 1 and 2 was scheduled for the week March 23-27 in Moncton, and for Local 100 members covered by Agreement No. 3 this week in Montreal. These sessions have been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The next bargaining session for Council 4000 is scheduled the week April 20-24, but a location has not yet been determined. The next scheduled dates for Local 100 are April 6-9 in Montreal.

Visit www.unifor.org/covid19 for the most up-to-date union information on the pandemic. For health information, consult your local health agency or www.canada.ca/coronavirus.

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