

Unifor National President

Jerry Dias

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Toronto, ON

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September 8, 2018

Brother Dias:

We would like to address a subject that is very dear to the hearts of our Retirees.

Our Retirees, particularly those that retired prior to 2008 will not have seen any increase in their negotiated pensions in over a decade. This is the group that retired under an agreement that would protect them from inflation by providing indexing of their pensions. Our leadership encouraged early retirement and many workers took advantage of leaving early as they knew their pensions would be secure and protected.

Bargaining for Retirees in 2012 and 2016 were a disappointment. Resolutions were submitted to every Retired worker's conference and passed unanimously asking our National to negotiate increases as we were aware that our buying power was diminishing. We have seen our pensions slowly erode during this period as the cost of living has increased by 20%. Costs for food, utilities, transportation, housing etc have increased drastically. In June of 2018 inflation rose by 2.5 % and 3% in July over the previous year, 2019 is forecasted to jump another 2.2%. At this rate our retirees are facing a much lower standard of living than was promised when they retired.

Many of our Retirees are being forced to downsize by selling their homes and moving into more affordable housing and are being forced to budget in their spending in every respect. We feel that increases to our pensions are long overdue and if our Union is not successful in 2020 bargaining then we will eventually fall close to the poverty line.

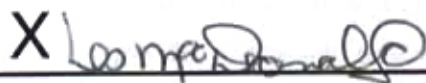
As you are aware during our time in the UAW and CAW, pensions were always highlighted in every second contract as being a priority in that bargaining year. Retirees always felt that they were part of this process but now feel that we are being forgotten.

We realize that other factors come into play like securing content and maintaining jobs and we also know that the negotiation pie is divided up but our retirees never seem to be a part of it.

As Retiree representatives we owe our retired members some hope that their concerns are being recognized and will be on the 2020 negotiation table. They need to hear this from the top of the house.

We would like to know where you stand on increasing Retiree Pensions going into 2020 bargaining and if we can finally be a piece of that pie.

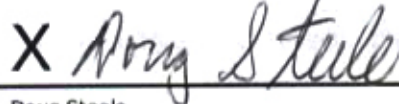
In Solidarity,

X 

Les MacDonald
Retiree Chair Unifor Local 222

X 

Tony Slat
Retiree Chair Local 1973

X 

Doug Steele
Retiree Vice - Chair Local 636

X 

Mike McCue
Retiree Chair Local 1459

X 

Arnie De Vaan
Retiree Chair Local 707

X 

Chris Wlaski
Retiree Chair Local 584

X *Bob Such*

Bob Such
Retiree Chair Local 1520

X *Gerry Graham*

Gerry Graham
Retiree Chair Local 444

X *Fred Dougan*

Fred Dougan
Retirees Chair Local 199

X *Len Campbell*

Len Campbell
Retiree Chair Local 240

X *Hector McLellan*

Hector McLellan
Retiree Chair Local 27

X *John Gatens*

John Gatens
Retiree Chair Local 1090

X *Larry Garvey*

Larry Garvey Local 1498
Retiree Chair

X *Jim Michel*

Jim Michel Local 200
Retiree Chair

X *Richard Fournier*

Richard Fournier Local 698
Retiree Chair

X *Ray Ivanystyn*

Ray Ivanystyn Local 1285
Retiree Vice - Chair