

Tuesday, January 16, 2018

Dear Local 75 member:

As you may have heard in your workplace, UNITE HERE Local 75 was placed in trusteeship on January 4th after a unanimous vote of the International Union's Executive Committee last December. Charges were filed and a Trustee was appointed per the IU Constitution. I am the trustee and I wanted to both introduce myself and tell you some of the reasons for the trusteeship.

My name is Ian Robb. I have been working with our union for 34 years, initially in Victoria, and Vancouver BC, with Local 40 and, most recently, leading a multi-year program to rebuild Local 47 in Alberta where I serve as President. I am also the Canadian Director for UNITE HERE. I am Canadian through and through (I was born in Scarborough, ON) as is my assistant trustee, Karen Grella, the Secretary-Treasurer & Business Manager of UNITE HERE Local 261 (Ottawa) and an International vice-president.

There are a lot of rumours and misunderstandings floating around our shops here in the GTA. Here are some facts:

- In December, then-President Lis Pimentel removed 12 members of the Local's Executive Board. These members were elected by **YOU** and Local 75 membership in Fall 2016. You probably know them. They have walked beside you at work and at rallies and parades. They have fought for you at hearings, grievances and in negotiations. They saw the divisive and undemocratic actions taken by Ms. Pimentel and so requested the International place Local 75 in a voluntary trusteeship. Ms. Pimentel replaced them with hand-picked supporters. This is contrary to the bylaws governing Local 75. This is contrary to the way leaders in Canada should behave. This is contrary to a democratic union.
- Then-President Pimentel, with absolutely no authority or due process, temporarily banned the member-elected Secretary-Treasurer Nuredin Bulle from certain Local 75-represented hotels.
- Then-President Pimentel without warning, in mid-December, changed the locks on all doors at Local 75 offices and allowed access to only hand-picked staff and officers.
- In numerous ways, under then-President Pimentel, Local 75 has operated in undemocratic and divisive ways in including hiring staff and allowing unapproved payments of union funds (**your money**) in direct opposition to the bylaws the members of Local 75 voted to support and the International Union's Constitution which was voted on and approved at the 2014 Convention.

As you know, 2018 is an important year for our members in Toronto. We have significant opportunities as our hotel contracts covering the majority of our members are re-negotiated. This is an opportunity to negotiate better wages and benefits, reduced housekeeping workload and stronger job protections. We need to face our Employers through a unified and strong UNITE

HERE Local 75. Anyone who attempts to destroy that unity and to divide our membership, isn't working for you. They are working to help the Employers who can only hope that this year we will be weak and divided so they can slash our contract protections.

Local 75, under this trusteeship is not going to allow that to happen. We are working with you, your shop stewards and committees to strengthen Local 75. We will have better and stronger collective agreements by working together.

In Solidarity,

Ian Robb
Local 75 Trustee