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Canadian Territory

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Notice: Solidarity beyond political boundaries and its elected Leadership

To: Staff & Local Presidents,

Recently, the relationship between the United States and Canada has been facing increasing challenges, particularly considering the political tensions and economic policies that are impacting both sides of the border. As we navigate through these turbulent times, it is important to remember that our strength as a union relies on solidarity. Not just within our own country, but across borders.

We need to take proactive measures in response to anything that threatens the well-being of our country, our economy, and most importantly, our workers. I support fully buying Canadian, protecting our industries, and standing up for our nation, but we must also recognize that we need to protect our workers and ensure that their rights are upheld, regardless of the political climate.

While supporting these movements is crucial, we must remember that the challenges our brothers and sisters face across the border are also our challenges. Our unity as a union goes beyond national interests - it is about standing together, ensuring that we protect the workers who help build our economies, and ensuring that the strength of our workforce remains unshaken.

As you know, the IAM Union in Canada is part of an international union that spans both Canada and the United States. Our collective strength lies in our solidarity, standing side-by-side, and supporting each other through difficult times; no matter the political or economic climate.

Currently, our brothers, sisters and siblings in the United States are facing significant challenges, particularly under the current administration. While political decisions are often divisive, it is essential to remember that solidarity transcends borders, party lines, and political affiliations. The IAM Union's primary mission is to stand together, and now more than ever, we must maintain and even strengthen our unity across both sides of the border.

It has come to my attention that some members have expressed a desire to abstain from participating in our union conferences due to differing political views or stances on certain matters. I understand the passion and frustration many of you may feel, but I urge you to consider the broader implications of this decision. Our brothers, sisters and siblings in the U.S. are facing political and economic challenges that we cannot ignore. Many of them are directly affected by the actions of the current administration, including layoffs, attacks on collective bargaining rights and tariffs that impact both Canadian and American workers. It is crucial that we continue to stand with them, as their struggles are our struggles and their victories are our victories.

While many Americans did not support the current administration, it is essential to remember that the decisions made by this government still affect us all, particularly through policies such as tariffs that harm workers in both the U.S. and Canada. Our union's solidarity provides us with the strength to lobby for change, to voice our concerns, and to ensure that our collective rights are upheld.

Let me provide some context to the situation:

- In the U.S. presidential election, approximately 155 million people voted, which accounts for 64% of eligible voters.
- Of those, 77 million voted for Donald Trump (49.8% of those who voted), while 75 million voted for Kamala Harris (48.3% of those who voted).
- Only **31.5% of Americans voted for Trump**, which means 68.5% of Americans do not necessarily align with his views or support his policies.

As union members, we have a unique opportunity to use our solidarity to lobby lawmakers and fight against these harmful policies. We can leverage our international relationships, particularly with organizations like the AFL-CIO, to amplify our voices. By participating in conferences and events that promote solidarity, we strengthen the bond between us and our brothers and sisters, ensuring that our collective future remains bright.

I want to emphasize that the importance of maintaining our solidarity cannot be overstated. Political differences aside, we are united by our shared purpose and our commitment to one another. Solidarity is what makes us strong, and it is through this unity that we can effectively push back against policies that harm workers on both sides of the border.

I also want to highlight the significance of training for our representatives and staff. We are fortunate to have a world-class training facility, the W3 center, and those who have attended can attest to the value of this experience. By ensuring that our field representatives receive the best training possible, we equip them to better represent our membership and advocate for our collective rights.

Lastly, I want to share a personal experience. During my recent visits to the U.S. for work, I have been consistently approached by our brothers, sisters and siblings from the U.S. They express their deep regret over the actions of the current administration and ask that I relay their heartfelt apologies to all Canadians. Many of them are actively lobbying their government officials to stand against tariffs, and they are determined to make sure that our relationship remains strong. Our International President and council members have been vocal in their opposition to these tariffs, and we must stand in solidarity with them as we work toward resolving these issues.

One area that particularly concerns us is the impact of the ongoing situation on the air transportation industry. The economic uncertainty created by tariffs and anti-Trump sentiment has led to a reduction in bookings, particularly to the U.S. In February, bookings to the U.S. from Canada were down by 40%. This drop in travel not only affects the airlines but also the workers who rely on this industry for their livelihoods. A slowdown in air travel could lead to furloughs and job losses, which is why we must continue to encourage Canadians to support the industry by flying. Air transportation is a critical component of our economy, contributing to 4% of Canada's GDP, and it is essential that we protect our jobs in this sector.

To sum up, I urge you to consider the broader implications of our actions and decisions. It is in the best interest of our members on both sides of the border to maintain and strengthen our solidarity.

Together, we can navigate the challenges ahead and continue to fight for our collective rights, regardless of political affiliations. I ask that you please reflect on the importance of this unity and participate in the conferences and activities that promote our shared goals.

Thank you for your continued support, commitment, and solidarity. Let us stand together, stronger than ever, in the face of adversity.

In Solidarity,



David Chartrand
General Vice-President
IAM Union Canada

