



March 20th, 2020

Brothers and Sister,

As you are all aware, the Covid-19 pandemic is a situation that we have not encountered before. Things have been changing extremely quickly and we have been putting in long hours, responding to our members questions and concerns. In addition, we have been working with the company to ensure that our members are safe at work and to ensure that members have a safety net in the event that someone is required to take time off work to self-isolate or quarantine.

We have been doing our best to get information out to you as quickly as we get it. If you haven't subscribed yet to our texting service, you should do so in order to get the most recent updates from the local. Simply text "USW6571" to the number "32323", and then follow the instructions to join. If you have any questions or concerns, you should contact a member of the Negotiating Committee or the Joint Health and Safety Committee. Contact information can be found on our website - USW6571.ca.

I am aware that some of you have questioned why the plant is still operating, as making steel isn't necessarily an essential service. We have ensured that we are conducting ourselves in accordance with the advice received from medical experts at Health Canada and Health Ontario and going forward we will continue to do so. As of now, the closures of businesses have predominantly been those where large gatherings occur – bars, restaurants, casinos, schools. Some other businesses, like retail stores that deal mainly with the public, have voluntarily decided to close down. And others (like Air Canada) have announced mass layoffs due to the effect on their business.

It is our belief that if we follow the advice of the medical experts we can continue to keep our members safe in the workplace and also avoid financial hardship for our members at the same time. We're hoping that we are able to "weather the storm" and that we don't encounter a mass layoff like the workers at the aforementioned businesses are experiencing today.

In Solidarity,

John Catto
President
USW Local 6571