



April 7th, 2021

Brothers and Sister,

Today, we were made aware that Durham Public Health has declared a workplace outbreak of Covid-19 at our plant. Three of our members in the Melt Shop Maintenance department have tested positive and we currently have a total of 11 members that are out of the plant as they have been identified as having had close contact through contact tracing and are awaiting test results. The Company will be distributing more detailed information from Durham Public Health to our members, once they receive it.

Our Joint Health and Safety Committee continues to work diligently, to ensure that we are adhering to the public health guidelines and to keep our members safe. Since the pandemic began, we have worked with the Company to enact measures that have often gone above and beyond public health guidelines and recommendations. Our JHSC has been constantly reviewing and responding to the ongoing changes to the guidelines as new advice and information becomes available, and will continue to do so.

This pandemic has been affecting our lives in one form or another for over a year now. Everyone is fed up and we all want life to return to normal. Until it does, everyone needs to continue following the advice that we are given, and adhere to the protocols. Wash your hands. Wear a mask. Stay six feet apart. Those protocols have been in place for some time now and are simple, effective guidelines that can protect you in the event that Covid-19 makes its way into the plant.

We have a safety protocol that was created in consultation with the Ministry of Labour for situations that require our members to work with someone at a distance of less than six feet (close contact). That protocol should be adhered to

at all times. As always – if you are asked to perform work which you believe could endanger you or another worker, you have the right to refuse unsafe work. Unsafe work refusals are to be investigated in the presence of a certified Union health and safety representative without delay.

We wish our brothers and any of their family members who have tested positive, a speedy recovery.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to ask a member of the JHSC or a member of the Negotiating Committee.

In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Catto". The signature is stylized with a large initial "J" and a cursive "Catto".

John Catto  
President  
USW Local 6571