



17310 – 106 Ave. N.W.
Edmonton, Alberta T5S 1H9
Phone: (780) 426-3375
Toll Free: 1-800-262-9083
Fax: (780) 426-1694

#125, 5723 10 Street N.E.
Calgary, Alberta T2E 8W7
Phone: (403) 250-1060
Toll Free: 1-800-262-9083
Fax: (403) 250-1061

An Open Letter to the Members of the Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Local Union #8

You are receiving this package of materials that are required to be sent to each and every member of the Local Union; these materials are specifically required under changes that the current UCP government recently made to the *Labour Relations Code*. This is a mandatory requirement and a failure to do so could lead to serious sanctions by the Labour Relations Board.

Please understand this clearly, the Local Union and its Executive have consistently opposed these changes. The changes are extremely costly, and in the case of a Local Union like ours are meaningless, create an onerous bureaucratic requirement that strikes at the heart of the Freedoms guaranteed to unions and to Union Members under the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

We will continue to lobby, oppose, and conceivably challenge these changes to the *Labour Relations Code*.

This bureaucratic, costly, and wasteful activity is theoretically to prevent a union from spending money on politics, social causes, charities, support to nongovernmental agencies and generally restricting expenditure of union dues on anything other than collective bargaining or collective agreement administration. The money spent on collective bargaining or collective agreement administration is called “core activities”; these core activities allow the Local Union to spend money on your behalf. In the Regulations passed in December 2021 such things as collectively advancing and advocating workforce goals; creating public awareness; lobbying; participating in legal proceedings; complying with our obligations under certain acts; representing and supporting our members in proceedings or investigations or hearings related to employment; educating and training our members; providing benefits, establishing funds and providing money to dues payers in relation to employment; negotiating and administering collective agreements; engaging in activities relating to the operation and governance of the Local Union which includes administration, organizing, educating and training union staff and operating the hiring hall. This long list is provided to you because these are the activities that your Local Union currently does to support you in the workplace. Aside from 1 or 2 small charitable donations that is all we do. **Notwithstanding what we do, we are forced by the legislation and the regulations to engage in this charade.** We are not the “enemies” of any government and it is our desire to work with the government of the day to make the workplace safer, provide more and better job opportunities, to increase the standards respecting our trades and to make Alberta and Albertans prosperous.

In order for the Local Union to require our employers to deduct your union dues we will require the election contained in this letter to be signed by you and to be returned to the Local Union as quickly as possible. The materials enclosed with this letter are self-explanatory, one letter explains how we currently spend your dues and outlines what “non-core” activities that we may have, while the second letter is the Election Form that we



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respectfully request you sign and return as soon as possible. If you feel that the tone of these letters is “sharp” it is so and it is so because this is an absolute unwarranted attack and intrusion into the business of this Local Union. We are a democratic, member driven legitimate organization which has for over 115 years served to build the province, support our members and our communities. **We need you to support the Local Union by returning the Election Form.**

Yours respectfully & fraternally

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Shawn Griffin".

Shawn Griffin
Business Manager / Financial Secretary Treasurer