



Carpenters' District Council of Ontario

United Brotherhood of Carpenters & Joiners of America

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Tony Iannuzzi
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Ontario's Long-Term Care COVID-19 Commission

24th Floor, 700 Bay Street
Toronto, Ontario, M5G 1Z6

September 18th, 2020

Attn: Peter Rehak

Dear Mr. Rehak,

RE: The investigation of Ontario's Long Term Care COVID-19 Commission

Carpenters District Council of Ontario, United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America (the "CDCO") is the council of the Carpenters' Union which represents all Local Unions of the UBCJA in Ontario. One of our affiliated Local Unions is Healthcare, Office and Professional Employee's, Union, UBCJA Local 2220 ("HOPE"). As the name suggests, HOPE represents employees in various healthcare related industries, including thousands of employees who work in long term care facilities across the province.

The members of HOPE working in LTC's have obviously been specifically and significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Accordingly, the CDCO and HOPE wish to make representations to the Commission concerning the pandemic itself and the effect which it has had on our members working in this industry. As such, and given that the Commission has now announced that it has commenced the investigation phase of its activities, we are requesting information from the Commission concerning how we might be able to make our submissions to it. Specifically, it is unclear to us if the Commission is planning to provide for (virtual) oral presentations by interested parties or if all of its investigations will be conducted by way of written presentations (and if so what deadlines for making such representations exist).

In addition to the specific interests of HOPE, the CDCO's other local unions across the province also have an interest in making presentations to the Commission, although perhaps a less obvious one. Specifically, the members of the CDCO's various other locals include the skilled trades people (carpenters, drywallers and floor layers) involved in the building and renovating of long term care facilities. As we are sure your investigations will discover, at least part of the impact of COVID-19 in Ontario's long term cares has related directly to the buildings/facilities themselves, including the various "standards" to which these existing facilities were built.

Accordingly, members of the Carpenters' Union have a direct interest in any aspects of the Commission's investigation which may touch upon the state of the physical infrastructure of long term cares in Ontario. This is particularly the case when it comes to the possibility of carrying out extensive interior renovations to existing facilities in order to make them more "COVID resistant" (such as by eliminating 4 person rooms for example).

Any such interior renovations will obviously involve removing/replacing pre-existing ceilings, walls and floors, and, although it may not appear obvious at first glance, carrying out such construction work within older healthcare facilities is in fact some of the most dangerous work which our skilled trades people perform. Even after a few years of operations, serious contamination can build up on or under such interior surfaces and therefore, if the workers are not properly trained and the work is not properly controlled, the potential of contaminates thereafter spreading throughout the facility and affecting both the construction workers directly involved and any facility staff and residents who remain anywhere in the building is extremely serious.

Given all of the above, the CDCO is anxious to make full representations to the Commission concerning COVID-19 and the effect that this pandemic has had on long term cares, including both in respect to the direct healthcare workers and the construction workers that the CDCO and its local unions represent. As such, we look forward to your response concerning how we will be able to make such submissions.

We trust all of the above is clear but please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned should you have any questions concerning this matter.

Sincerely,



Mark J. Lewis
General Counsel

C.C.: Tony Iannuzzi
Mike Yorke
Paula Randazzo