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AMALGAMATED TRANSIT UNION LOCAL 113

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February 1, 2017

Mr. Chris MacDonald
Canadian Labour Congress
2841 Riverside Drive
Ottawa, ON K1V 8X7

Dear Brother MacDonald:

Re: ATU Local 113 Request to Invoke Article 4 of the CLC Constitution

We wish to request our Local's access to Article 4.9 of the Constitution of the Canadian Labour Congress, which sets out the process for justifying changing unions.

We understand the seriousness of this step, which has come to a head after years of our Local's efforts to work out our growing differences with the International Union. Over the last few years, on the shop floor, at meetings of our Executive Board, and at the microphones at membership meetings, the same question is being asked more frequently and with increasing anger: "Why do we still belong to a union that cares nothing of us except the nearly \$6,000 per day that we send to Washington?"

ATU International has interfered, without just cause, in our Local's internal affairs. It has overturned votes by our members on representation issues. The constant insulting of our elected leadership, the utter failure to support our Local's campaigns to protect our members' jobs and legal rights, and the denial of the right of Canadians to choose a representative on the ATU International Executive Board - all of this and more - has pushed us to this point. We are fortunate to be Canadian union workers and to have access, through the Canadian Labour Congress, to a constitutional process that lets us democratically decide whether we want to leave this Washington-based union and determine our own future as part of the Canadian labour movement.

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We have very serious challenges as a local union. We are called on to fight three levels of government to protect our members' jobs and rights. When our right to full collective bargaining rights was wiped out by Ontario Bill 150 by the Liberal government, ATU International was nowhere to be seen. When our constitutional privacy rights were being taken away by the Toronto Transit Commission, with the encouragement of the mayor of Toronto, ATU International was silent. But when Canadian ATU local union leaders ask for more resources to fight for our members, the International all of a sudden finds its voice and says "You Canadians are divisive and unintelligible."

We can no longer afford these distractions from our obligations as a union. We are proud to be Canadian transit workers and we wish to pursue our members' need for workplace representation in accordance with the CLC Constitution. Please let me know of any information you may need in this regard.

In solidarity,



Bob Kirnear
President/Business Agent

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