

Message from Telco Industry Council Chair & NEB Executive Marc Rousseau



Greetings Everyone! Here is an update on some of the work that I've been involved with and what we will be doing in the upcoming months.

During the first week of February (Feb 2nd – Feb 5th), a delegation of Unifor NEB executives plus several local leaders and representatives assembled last week to lobby the newly elected government. We were split into different groups and each group was assigned few ministers to meet. The Political lobby team prepared and organized 23 meetings spread over 2 days. We had strategy meetings and documents for our ministers.

I had the opportunity to meet with 2 Ministers of Parliament and a Chief of Staff. First there was the Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development, then we met with Elder Marques, Chief of Staff for the Honourable Navdepp Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development. To end the day, we had a meeting with the Honourable Mélanie Joly, Minister of Canadian Heritage.

In these meetings I was able to talk about the issues that are facing our industry. I spoke about reversing the amendments made to the Telecommunications Act relating to foreign ownership from the 2012 budget bill, and about establishing a national spectrum policy that focuses on the use of spectrum for public interest objectives, and not just for commercial use. After all, spectrum is owned by every Canadian and the last subject discussed was on developing a national plan that acknowledges telecommunications, including high-speed internet, as a public utility that ensures telecommunications services are affordable and accessible for every Canadian.

All topics were well received by each Minister and we got their commitment to work with us on these issues. We realized, at the end of the two days, that the new government was open to talk and work with the Union. If committees are established, some Ministers have committed to invite every stake holder to the discussions.



What's Next?

The Telecommunications Council sent a request of intervention to the CRTC for hearings to be held reviewing current telecommunication services, including internet, offered in Canada. This request secures the Telco Industry Council and its members a spot in the upcoming public hearings on the “**Let's Talk Broadband Internet**” initiative. Earlier this month, you would have received information regarding these hearings. You have also been invited to complete the “Let's Talk Broadband Internet” questionnaire to share your views on the telecommunication industry (crtc.gc.ca/eng/internet). All responses must be completed and received by the CRTC by **February 29th 2016**.

We have started our preparation for the next Telecommunications Council Meeting which will be held on August 21, 2016 – a day prior to the Unifor Convention.

As you can see, we have been busy! We are excited about the government's promising openness to talk about our issues. Thank you for your ongoing support and we will continue to represent you!

In solidarity, Marc

In Solidarity – Unifor Locals 1S, 2S & 3

Our Telco Industry Brothers & Sisters from Unifor Locals 1S, 2S, & 3 are locked in bargaining with SaskTel for a new contract. The Bargaining Committee and membership have mobilized to oppose concessions, cuts, and claw backs proposed by the Crown Corporation for the workers of SaskTel. Show your support for our fellow Telco Industry Brothers & Sisters as they fight to protect good jobs and job security!!!!



Unifor Locals 1S, 2S, & 3 Executive Boards

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