



# MESSAGE FROM DONOVAN NEZBETH LOCAL 26 PRESIDENT

September 2022

Brothers & Sisters,

It's hard to believe that summer is quickly turning to fall, I hope that you have been able to enjoy some well earned vacation with your friends and family.

We celebrated Labour Day on September 5<sup>th</sup> by demonstrating through the streets of Toronto as part of the annual Labour Day Parade. Not sure if you were aware but Labour Day began in Canada on April 15, 1872, a mere five years after Confederation. On that historic day the Toronto Trades Assembly, the original central labour body in Canada, organized the country's first significant 'workers demonstration.'

So many of you and your families have been impacted by COVID and although we are thankfully getting back to more of our normal lives; your union continues to fight against the unfair practices implemented by the companies when they needed you most. The local officers held **information pickets** at work centers to share details with our members on these unfair practices. Local 26 has over **30 grievances related to unfair COVID practices** that have been approved for arbitration across all of our bargaining units



Reaching our membership across all bargaining units is a key but has proven to be challenging during COVID where we could not meet face to face. We held numerous virtual sessions & membership meetings with our bargaining units but it's not the same as seeing you all in person. I am very happy to share that our **membership meetings have moved back to face to face**, we resumed our **annual ice cream appreciation days** and will be hosting a **retirement party!**

I am hearing from many of you that you are worried about the economy and the increased inflation. Unfortunately, over the years the COLA allowances in our contracts have been dropped and it will be important in our next rounds of bargaining to have these **COLA clauses reinstated and/or included as safety nets in the future**. Many of our jobs continue to be outsourced and I have raised grievances to challenge this practice but this is also something we need to **continue to fight for union jobs in bargaining**



Let me close by saying that I am humbled and honoured to be your Local President; I am proud of our executive team. Unifor has been through some challenging events this past year and we have recently elected a new National President – Lana Payne. I look forward to working with her and the new Executive Leadership team to continue to make our **Union Stronger Together**.

In Solidarity,  
Donovan