



AMALGAMATED TRANSIT UNION

LOCAL 1505

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To the executive of the Canadian Labour Congress,

We are writing today to express concerns regarding major issues taking place at the Winnipeg Labour Council (WLC) and their affiliates. As representatives of multiple affiliates, we want to work together to strengthen, not weaken, the foundation on which the WLC operates.

Over the past few months, several affiliates have raised issues with the process for political action and perceived incidents of intimidation and harassment brought forward by members of CUPE. Incidents of this nature have occurred both in formal and informal settings and we are concerned that these actions have fundamentally undermined the ongoing work of the Winnipeg Labour Council and the Political Action Committee (PAC).

At the Tuesday May 15th general meeting of the Winnipeg Labour Council, members of CUPE subverted the democratic process and passed a motion that went against the actions of the Political Action Committee and the Winnipeg Labour Council executive. This process ignored the ongoing work of the PAC to identify candidates and bring forward recommendations for political endorsements through either a democratic or consensus driven model, including the endorsement of candidates who had not been recommended by the PAC. At this point in time, we feel that some members of CUPE have undermined the democratic process with the PAC model that was agreed upon and pushed by CUPE members.

The Winnipeg Labour Council exists to “promote the interests of its affiliates” and to “protect and strengthen our democratic institutions”. The WLC also stands to “protect the labour movement from any and all corrupt influences.” We feel that the democratic process, as agreed and voted on by the executive and the general membership, has been ignored and undermined and has devalued the intensive work and efforts of the PAC.

Through this process, multiple delegates and union members have also identified incidents of harassment and intimidation by members of CUPE to a number of affiliates. These incidents have taken place both outside of the official venues of the Winnipeg Labour Council as well as during meetings of the PAC, executive and general membership meetings. Various attempts have been made to attack individual members as well.

If the Winnipeg Labour Council is to succeed as an organization representing workers in Winnipeg as our house of labour, than we need to be sure to work together. The democratic processes that are agreed upon on the floor and executive level of the Winnipeg Labour Council must be respected. Additionally, we all must work to ensure that the WLC operates as a safe and accessible space that is free from harassment and intimidation. These are the same expectations that we would set for our respective workplaces and we are hopeful that these same standards would be afforded to our deliberations in the labour movement.

Members of CUPE have clearly and deliberately undermined the democratically established endorsement process adopted by the WLC. By way of this letter, we are formally appealing to you to take immediate action to review and reassess the actions of the May 15th meeting. We would also strongly recommend that the appropriate parties work to install an anti-harassment officer or mediator to address many of the concerns that are being brought forward as to ensure a safe and harassment free space for everyone.

In solidarity,

Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 1505
Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) Local 856
Canadian Office and Professional Employees Union (COPE) Local 342
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 2085
Union of Health & Environment Workers (UHEW) Local 50012
Winnipeg Association of Public Service Officers (WAPSO)

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