



UNITED FIRE FIGHTERS OF WINNIPEG
LOCAL 867-INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS
303-83 GARRY STREET WINNIPEG MB R3C 4J9
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May 14, 2020

Premier Brian Pallister
204 Legislative Building
450 Broadway
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8

RE: Pallister says labor, business will have say in \$120-M wage top-up for essential workers - Winnipeg Free Press

Dear Premier Pallister,

On behalf of Winnipeg fire fighters and fire fighter-paramedics, please accept my gratitude for your leadership during this unprecedented and challenging time. The men and women of the United Fire Fighters of Winnipeg are reassured to know that our safety and our well-being are being considered at the provincial level while we are on the front lines protecting the lives and property of those we are sworn to serve.

Yesterday, you announced that you are considering a financial benefit of up to \$1,000 for essential workers in Manitoba. We applaud this measure, as there are many workers who are suddenly being faced with challenging new circumstances in the course of their duties, and putting their safety and the safety of their families at risk, whether they are on the front lines in long-term care facilities, working in the food industry, providing security or performing many other tasks that until the COVID-19 pandemic, were taken for granted. In many cases, these workers who we now recognize as essential are in traditionally low-paid professions and are making extreme personal sacrifices to keep this great province running.

In direct response to the indication that the province will be consulting labour on eligibility for any financial benefit related to the COVID-19 pandemic, I am formally advising that you do not need to include Winnipeg fire fighters and fire fighter-paramedics in the list of those workers you are considering for the pandemic pay benefit.

Working on the front lines in dangerous, emergency conditions is what our members have always done and are continuing to do during this unprecedented emergency. They choose Firefighting and Fire Paramedic as professions knowing its dangers and the resulting sacrifices for them and their families.

Our work has always been dangerous and demanding, and this is already recognized in the auspices of the collective agreement that we have negotiated with our employer. We are proud to honour this agreement and even in this challenging time we expect no more and no less than what our contract provides.



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We are grateful to see that at the federal and provincial levels, the needs of workers and working families are being recognized and addressed in direct and meaningful fashions, with regard to their safety, their financial security and their overall well-being. We also believe that care should be taken to ensure that extra resources made available during the COVID-19 pandemic are directed to those who are truly in need and who are newly facing difficult and challenging circumstance while working on the front lines on behalf of Manitobans. Thank you again for your leadership during this challenging time.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Alex Forrest'.

Alex Forrest
President, UFFW