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PETER KENNEDY
National Secretary-Treasurer
Secrétaire-trésorier national

By email and mail

January 12, 2016

To: All Local Unions in Nova Scotia

Greetings Sisters and Brothers:

Re: Local Union Task Force - Building Stronger Local Unions Together

We want to hear from you about how we can build stronger local unions together. As part of that conversation, we are holding town hall meetings throughout the country and conducting membership surveys.

I am very pleased to send you this announcement and invitation to attend and participate in the Local Union Task Force (LUTF) Town Hall meetings scheduled for Nova Scotia.

The LUTF Town Hall meetings are for **Unifor Local Union Executive members, Unifor Activists and for all interested Unifor members.**

Where: Antigonish, Nova Scotia

Date: Tuesday, April 5, 2016

Venue: Claymore Inn and Suites, 137 Church Street, Antigonish

Time: 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm

(Food and soft drinks will be provided from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm)

Where: Sydney, Nova Scotia

Date: Wednesday, April 6, 2015

Venue: Holiday Inn Sydney – Waterfront Hotel, 300 Esplanade, Sydney

Time: 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm

(Food and soft drinks will be provided from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm)

The Agenda for this meeting will include:

- * Food and soft drinks will be served from 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm
- * Meeting will run 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm
- * Opening remarks from Atlantic Director, Lana Payne
- * Presentation on Unifor Local Unions and membership – Unifor Research Department
- * Goals of the Local Union Task Force – LUTF National Advisor, Ken Lewenza

***Open Discussion will take place from Local Union Officers and members on these questions:**

1. What are the key challenges you face as a Local Union?
2. How can we build stronger member support and engagement in our Local Unions?
3. Are there some best practices and good ideas from your Local Union that you can share?
4. What ideas do you have for working with other Unifor Local Unions in your community?
5. What do you need to do to strengthen your Local Union?

***General discussion on solutions, recommendations and follow up**

The Town Hall meetings are meant to be as informal as possible with an open and free discussion on how to strengthen our Local Unions and increase membership engagement.

Please ensure that your members are informed of this opportunity to come out and join the discussion. **I am attaching a PDF file of a poster that you can use in your Local Union communications to members, and for posting on workplace bulletin boards.**

For more information on the Local Union Task Force and the Discussion Paper and surveys to guide this process, please refer to the correspondence from National President Jerry Dias, and see the information and documents posted at www.unifor.org. We have also included them for your information.

In addition to the town hall meetings, locals are being asked to participate in an important Local Union Survey. Each Unifor local is responsible for completing one survey (locals can decide who is best positioned to do that). The survey is not long. It should take you between 15 and 20 minutes to complete. The information we'll gather from this survey will be invaluable when forming our final Task Force report and recommendations. So it is critical that local unions take the time to fill this out.

The Local Union Surveys can be accessed through the following links:

English: <http://www.unifor.org/localunionsurvey>

French: <http://www.unifor.org/sondagesectionslocales>

Please RSVP your attendance to yvette.biddington@unifor.org by **March 30, 2016**, so that we can plan for food and size of the meeting room. Your co-operation is greatly appreciated.

I look forward to seeing you at the Town Hall Meetings and to building our union together.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lana Payne". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Lana Payne
Atlantic Regional Director

Attachs.

c.c. Jerry Dias, Peter Kennedy, Ken Lewenza, Jenny Ahn, Fred Wilson, Bill Murnighan, Joie Warnock, Katha Fortier, Darlene McIvor, Keith Sullivan, Lisa Martin

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