

April 6, 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

I am certain that you have all seen the government news release (on our website since Friday afternoon), altering the list of essential businesses that will be permitted to stay open in Ontario. We Expect more drastic measures in the coming weeks if the spread of COVID-19 is not slowed or stopped. Doctor Peter Donnelly, President and CEO of Ontario Public Health issued a warning just prior to the Premiere's statement, the essence of the message from both individuals is that we have to stay home, or this will get worse. These actions are not taken lightly, as many of our members will be sent home from work this week with no known return date. This is illustrative of the desperation that we are faced with to combat the COVID-19 Pandemic.

COVID 19 has created stress and anxiety due to it ever-changing characteristics. The uncertainty it brings with it adds to the already hectic lifestyle we all have. Take the time to speak to someone about it. Get the facts and be educated. Morneau Shepell has put together a sheet with links to resources that you may find very helpful. It can be found at: http://teibas.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/COVID-information-by-Shepell.pdf

We continue to monitor and react to the changing landscape, continuing to provide all or as many services that you rely on, including – SUB applications, STD Application, Dispatch to name but a few. IBEW Local 353 staff are operating in a physical distanced environment designed to ensure their safety. We are thankful for their dedication and commitment. Please ensure that you report to dispatch any change in your employment as soon as you can, so our records are complete and correct.

I can assure you that this has not been an easy time for anyone. Please remember that the offices are not open to walk in traffic. We will be able to serve your needs via phone, fax or email messaging. Remember, we are all in this together, be patient and respectful.

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