



General Presidents' Maintenance Committee for Canada
LEADERS IN UNIONIZED MAINTENANCE

May 2, 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

In my last communication dated October 11, 2016 I outlined the fact that the Committee would be conducting a full review of all existing General Presidents' Maintenance Agreements and the current National Maintenance Agreement in Alberta in an attempt to establish a single collective agreement to cover the maintenance industry. It was hoped that the existing collective agreements could be streamlined into one master agreement which would simplify things for those working within our industry. However, after completing this process it has been determined that it is far too complex to execute one master agreement. Each particular maintenance collective agreement was designed for a specific purpose (one for short term maintenance and one for long term maintenance) and simply stated there are too many nuances which would be lost through the amalgamation to one single agreement.

During the renewal process the Parties agreed to meet within six months to convene a State of the Industry Meeting and to evaluate where 'WE' are positioned within the contract maintenance industry in light of the changes made to the Collective Agreements. Our meeting was held on April 12, 2017 in Edmonton and I am able to report that the economic situation since my last communication has not improved and uncertainty continues to exist within the petrochemical industry within Alberta. Clients continue to place demands on our employers to look for cost savings at all levels and this pressure will continue for some time. Contract decisions are primarily being driven by costs and most of the decisions are being made by Supply Chain Management personnel who have little or no interaction with the contractor representatives or the workers on site. Our signatory employers continue to put their best foot forward to attempt to acquire work for the members of the Building Trades Unions and they continue to sell the "Skilled Trades Advantage."

The changes to the bidding and award process established within the Client world no longer provide our employers with the opportunity to apply any leverage on the established personal relationships which exist between the contractor and certain Client personnel. We are operating in a day and age where "Overall Cost" influences all decisions and pressure continues to be placed on our signatory employers to meet these new market conditions. Our environment has been altered and we will have to continue to adapt and change with the market conditions in order to secure our position within the contract maintenance industry. I am confident that 'WE' are the best option for our Clients and the Building Trades members are the most skilled and most productive professionals in North America. There will continue to be bumps in the road along this journey, however, 'WE' have the ability to meet and overcome any and all challenges.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brett McKenzie" with a stylized arrow pointing to the right.

Brett McKenzie
Executive Director