

The February 1, 2018 membership meeting of Unifor Local 222 voted to send the following letter:

Jerry Dias
National President, Unifor

Brother Dias,

As members of Unifor Local 222 we are disappointed that you have taken the action of disaffiliating our union from Canada's central labour body, the Canadian Labour Congress. While you obtained the endorsement of the National Executive Board for this drastic step, there was no advance notice to the broader members or local leaders of Unifor. As a result, the NEB endorsed your request before they had a chance to hear any of the views of our members.

The disaffiliation is being justified by reference to long-standing issues. If this is true, there was the opportunity to have a full discussion at our last Unifor Canadian Council meeting in August 2017. That, at least, would have allowed representatives from all Unifor locals to have input and a vote.

We believe there is no need at this time to disaffiliate from the CLC. We further believe that the disaffiliation hurts the labour movement, and has harmed the momentum that was being built in defense of marginalized workers, such as Tim Hortons workers.

If you believe there are problems with the structure or constitution of the CLC, we believe you have an obligation to advocate for change within the organization before leaving. The CLC Convention was in May 2017, and you did not have any proposals for change put forward there.

Neither can the disaffiliation be justified by raising the issue of hotel workers in UNITE HERE Local 75 wanting to join Unifor. The existing procedure for workers to change unions under the CLC Constitution (Article 4.9) was not even tried by the hotel workers. Furthermore, we know that the Article 4.9 procedure has been successfully used in other cases, including instances where workers were able to move to Unifor.

We call on you to reverse this decision.