



INTERNATIONAL LONGSHORE & WAREHOUSE UNION Local 502

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March 21, 2020

Letter to BCMEA and Members Employers

In response to the directions of the British Columbia Ministry of Health to limit the gathering of people in order to reduce the transmission of COVID-19, the International Longshore and Warehouse Union, Local 502, has implemented temporary changes to its dispatch procedure. We are implementing an online dispatch process, which we will fully implement on March 22, 2020. We are asking members and casuals to not come to the dispatch hall for an in-person dispatch while the current state of emergency is in effect.

We expect employers to implement similar protections, which reduces exposure, such as appropriate cleaning facilities, sufficient space to work, and adequate time for cleaning up and hand washing. The health and safety of our members and casuals is our utmost priority. We support those who self-isolate and insist all who may have been exposed to the virus or are exhibiting symptoms to not report to work.

Temporarily changing our dispatch process allows members and casuals who wish to work to be dispatched with minimal risk. These changes and any other future changes throughout the COVID 19 situation are without prejudice and without precedent. ILWU Local 502 is not conceding any of our rights under the collective agreement. Once the COVID 19 situation comes to a conclusion, ILWU Local 502 will be returning to all prior dispatching protocols.

While we do not expect employers will be affected, there may be some delays in implementing the new process. The COVID 19 virus situation requires the Union to respond to changing circumstances, but we are working diligently to meet the needs of the industry with a healthy workforce. Please contact the undersigned if you have any questions or concerns.

Regards,

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