

Statement



Unifor sends solidarity and support to the people of Fort McMurray

May 4, 2016

As flames continue to engulf the city, Unifor's thoughts are with the people of Fort McMurray during these difficult days. Thousands of families have been forced to flee the lives they've spent years building in that community. We hope they find safe haven and some comfort in the support of loved ones and others reaching out to help.

"Last night, like Canadians across the country, I found myself pouring over news reports and looking to social media for updates on the safety of friends and colleagues," said Unifor National President Jerry Dias. "While I felt a deep relief to hear from members and friends as they reached safe ground, the images coming out of Fort McMurray made my heart stop."

This tragedy will no doubt touch communities across Canada, as Fort McMurray drew workers and their families from across the country looking for good jobs and a strong future for their families.

The bonds that made Fort McMurray a place to build a life will not be extinguished by these flames. We will mourn now, take whatever comfort we can from the supports of others, and one day - hopefully soon - begin to rebuild what has been lost.

"No words can resolve what has happened, but I hope they can, at least, offer some comfort," said Dias. "To our members in and around Fort McMurray, stay safe and know that your union is thinking of you and will work with you and your neighbours to rebuild your community."

In partnership with the Unifor Social Justice Fund, Unifor is making an initial \$250,000 contribution to the Red Cross in support of relief efforts and encouraging all 310,000 members and locals across the country to consider making a donation as well. More information can be found at <http://www.redcross.ca/>

Unifor is also asking members and staff in the Edmonton area who may have any spare accommodations available (rooms, trailers, etc.) to contact the regional office at 780-448-5868.

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