



COVID-19 UPDATE TO MEMBERS

March 22nd, 2020

Brothers, Sisters, and Kin,

We write to ensure Members are informed of current developments with the Union during the COVID-19 health crisis. The Executive Board is in regular communication with the I.A.T.S.E. Canada and General Offices. We are also keeping an eye on any announcements by Civic, Provincial, and Federal Governments.

All Venues serviced by I.A.T.S.E. Local 118 are closed for the foreseeable future. We will inform Members of any change in operations of our employers. Business Agent Jordan Both is tracking all work lost by Members during this time at the request of the International.

A reminder that the March General Meeting has been cancelled.

Trust Account Cheques

Last week all I.A.T.S.E. Local 118 Trust Account cheques were mailed to both members and permits. The same will happen this week for any shows that had not yet paid out.

Closure of the Union Office

As of Monday March 23rd, the I.A.T.S.E Local 118 office will be closed to the public. Email and Phones will be monitored. Members needing to contact the office should email office@iatse118.com. Dispatch will also be closed until further notice.

Quarterly Dues

The Executive Board understands that Members may have concerns regarding the payment of minimum quarterly dues during this time. As you know, second quarter minimum dues must be paid prior to April 1st in order for a Member to remain in Good Standing. This is outlined in the [Constitution and By-Laws of I.A.T.S.E. Local 118](#). The Executive Board does not have the power to override the Constitution. In accordance with this requirement, second quarter dues are still due by April 1st.

However, we do understand that the current health crisis has caused financial strain for many Members. In order to lessen the economic impact on our Members, the Executive Board has moved the following motion.



“Notwithstanding the Dues Collection Policy, be it resolved that the Executive Board of I.A.T.S.E. Local 118 directs the Financial Secretary-Treasurer to delay sending notices of suspension to members in arrears for non payment of second quarter dues until such time as directed by the Executive Board.”

Moved by Brother Dunlop, Seconded by Brother Wilson. - Motion Carried

This motion will allow all Members who are in good standing prior to the second quarter to remain in good standing during these unprecedented circumstances. A few things to note:

- Members are encouraged to pay their second quarter dues prior to the April 1st deadline if they have the means to do so. (e-transfers may be sent to dues@iatse118.com)
- On the recommendations of Health Canada the Local will not be accepting cash dues payments until further notice.
- Members will still be charged minimum dues and will be required to pay any outstanding dues balances once the Board directs the Financial Secretary-Treasurer to resume sending suspension notices.
- Members who are currently suspended, shall remain not in good standing for any amounts owed prior to the second quarter of 2020 unless their dues balances are paid.
- Members who have prepaid for the year are not able to receive a refund.
- Members on the automatic PAD System will still be billed on April 1st.
- Members who have sent post dated checks, checks will be cashed on April 1st.
- Per I.A.T.S.E. Local 118 By-Laws, Members may apply for dues relief for medical reasons. Review Section 5 of the I.A.T.S.E. Local 118 By-Laws for information.

Should Members have any questions, contact Financial Secretary-Treasurer Alex Livland at financialsecretary@iatse118.com

I.A.T.S.E. International

The International has launched iatsecanada.net, a Website to keep Members up-to-date on COVID-19 in Canada. This site contains links to information from the Provincial and Federal Government, as well as information on applying for various assistance, including the various government support benefits and the AFC.

The International announced last week that I.A.T.S.E. has made a donation of 2.5 million dollars to the Actors Fund, and the Motion Picture & Television Fund which provide financial assistance and counselling for all workers in the entertainment industry.



Applying for EI

For Members applying for EI, Health and Welfare Administrator Margaret Underhill has provided some information which can be found [here](#).

Other Benefits

The Federal Government has also announced the creation of the Emergency Relief Benefit and the Emergency Care benefit, for those who do not qualify for regular EI benefits. Information on those programs can be found [here](#).

Other Resources

- Please also know that www.calltimentalhealth.com is available to all members and anyone else in our industries for mental health and/or addiction assistance.
- CBC news has setup a hub for all [news stories](#) regarding COVID-19 in BC.
- Most financial institutions in Canada have publicly stated that they are offering deferrals of mortgage payments for those impacted by COVID-19. Please contact your bank for more information.
- At this time, a Provincial Government plan to help renters is unknown.
- [Technicians of Vancouver, Unite!](#), is a Facebook page which was set up by members of the I.A.T.S.E. Local 118 Young Workers Committee (YWC), to share information and resources, as well as offers of help for things such as getting groceries for those in quarantine.

In Closing

While this has been a stressful time for everyone, The Executive Board remains committed to supporting Members through this difficult time. We are all in this together. By supporting each other in this crisis we can come through the other side as a stronger unified Union. Should any members require additional information please email office@iatse118.com.

In Solidarity,

I.A.T.S.E. Local 118 Executive Board