



Sisters and Brothers,

There have been many queries about the vaccine mandates being imposed by the government, the company and Unifor.

The Liberal Party has put into their platform they will deny the legal rights of employees to challenge a vaccine mandate put forward by corporations. This blank cheque denial of legal rights should be concerning as this is a slippery slope with the potential for 'mission creep' being very serious. When corporations can decide which medical treatment is suitable for an employee it could have ramifications for a long time to come. Give an inch, they will end up with the whole block.

Further, it is distressing that Unifor decided to publicly encourage companies to terminate employees that do not take a vaccine and stating they will not assist those who experience job loss is pitiful. Unions should be seeking accommodation and pragmatic resolutions, not costing people employment.

There are legitimate concerns that vaccinated people still spread the virus and do so asymptotically – how do you know you are a carrier or when to get tested if you do not have symptoms? Jurisdictions which were ahead in their population vaccinations, such as Ireland or Israel, are seeing upticks in case rates among the vaccinated, including hospitalization. We need to be careful and cautious moving forward.

As President of Local 25, it has been an honour to serve all of our membership, regardless of race, religion, colour, creed and yes, medical status. We've always tried provide representation for workers that have disputes with the company or between themselves in the workplace. It remains my intention, regardless of Unifor's demands, to represent everyone to the best of our ability.

Whether you are vaccinated or not, your human rights matter. We can find reasonable solutions if we are patient and open minded. Unfortunately, the unprecedented vitriol of this Federal election campaign, including by the Prime Minister of Canada or the President of Unifor, has made such reasoned dialogue difficult. We need to do better, all of us.

When we stick together, we are strong. Divided, we are exploited. Every worker matters.

Sincerely,

Justin Connolly

President Local 25