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GORDONMcGRATH  
*President*

BILL GAUCHER  
*Secretary Treasurer*

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April 19, 2022

To: All members of the National Executive Board

Greetings,

We are writing to voice our concerns over the fact that there appears to be elements within the National Executive Board that are pushing to move quickly to a special convention, with the sole purpose of that convention to elect a new President, no other business would be on the agenda as per the constitution.

This has all been precipitated by the fact that Jerry Dias has resigned under allegations of a serious violation of our trust, he offered as an explanation that pain killers, sleeping pills and alcohol have impaired his judgement. He then moved to resign on March 11<sup>th</sup> the same day as the National sent out the call letter for the August convention, the reason outlined in a letter from him to staff was to force a special convention and limit the length of time for an election campaign.

Our constitution calls for a special convention to fill the vacancy created if there is more than 120 days left in the term before the normally scheduled convention, at this point there are definitely less than 120 days. Our constitution also speaks to us being guided by the dictates of common sense. Common sense would tell us that we shouldn't be directed by the wishes of a former president under investigation and admittedly making poor decisions due to the alcohol and drug abuse that he is now receiving treatment for.

Common sense would also tell us that people who are delegates deserve all of the facts that are known in order to make an informed decision on who will be our next president and hopefully by the August convention everything will be brought to light. The facts are that the investigation has not even been completed yet as we still have not heard from Jerry Dias, he still may decline to be interviewed but until such time the investigation remains unfinished.

Delegates are going to be asked to vote without the knowledge of all the facts and there have been many rumors and speculation out there that this may not have been an isolated incident and that others were involved.

Delegates need to understand what happened to precipitate Jerry Dias handing over \$25,000.00 to Chris MacDonald and everyone's involvement before and after that took place. We need to allow time for the investigation to be completed and then we need a full reporting of what took place with the release of the independent investigators report, hopefully a day early in the August Constitutional Convention can be dedicated to that along with a serious look at what or if changes should be put in place to safeguard the integrity of our union.

As well Locals should not be required to bear the additional cost of a special convention when the regularly scheduled election is less than four months away. With 14 delegates from Local 114 a conservative estimate of cost for lost time, travel and accommodations would be in excess of \$63,000.00 for the constitutional convention and we should not be expected to have to cover the additional cost of a special convention held only weeks prior.

The rules say that only the delegates to the last convention three years ago would be the delegates to any special convention, in Local 114 we only sent 4 delegates to that convention and as such there would only be those 4 eligible to attend a special convention and this would not properly represent our local for such an important issue of selecting our next President. Other locals with smaller delegations it could mean due to elections that none of the current leadership could be seated or that possibly they would have no representation at all. This would happen at the same time as we are in the process of electing delegates to the August Constitutional Convention that in all likelihood would take place just weeks following any special convention.

The ethics and integrity of our very union are being watched not only by our members within Unifor but by the entire labour movement and we will be judged on how we conduct ourselves at this point in our history. On behalf of our Executive and members let us make it absolutely clear that we are opposed to holding a special convention with less than four months left before our official convention that is scheduled August 8-12, 2022.

In solidarity,



Gord McGrath  
President  
Unifor Local 114



Bill Gaucher  
Secretary Treasurer  
Unifor Local 114