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What is Unifor seeking?

Change is needed to stop the bullying tactics of U.S.-based unions that deny workers in Canada basic and fundamental democratic rights. This decision is rooted in a perspective that unions and the CLC must act as defenders of workers' rights and remain a relevant voice for workplace and social justice—without that we are not upholding our obligation to members.

The birth of Unifor was an act of hope for the Canadian labour movement and working people more generally. Our union has pushed for workers' rights and made great gains and we will continue to do this. It is our hope that the action to disaffiliate from the CLC will trigger change to ensure that workers in Canada have their democratic rights respected.

Has Unifor broken solidarity with the labour movement?

Absolutely not. Solidarity is not about paying dues to a central labour body, it is about the work that we do every single day.

Unifor has been adamant about supporting labour councils, community actions, and grassroots organizations. The President of the CLC has now directed labour federations and councils to block Unifor members and activists from participating in their work. This is an act that seeks to remove our participation and involvement in the movement but our activism will continue. We are dedicated to building a new kind of unionism and will continue to do this with those who want to work with us.

Building a movement is not about relying on the bureaucracy it is about solidarity actions, inclusion, and moving forward for justice.

How was this decision made?

This was a difficult decision and it was not made lightly. Unifor first discussed this issue in 2017 and in light of recent events involving UNITE HERE Local 75, a decision was made by the leadership team to raise the concerns with the members of the National Executive Board, Unifor's highest governance authority between conventions. After a thorough discussion the National Executive Board made a unanimous decision to leave the CLC. This decision is one of principled action that is rooted in upholding the values of our union.

If Unifor is not affiliated with the CLC, what does this mean for Unifor's relationship with the broader labour movement?

Unifor is proud to defend the rights of working people and unions and will continue to do so. The union will continue to build workers' power and defend workers' rights. All members and staff are asked to continue to show the enormous power of our solidarity with and for working people. That will never change.