

## Message from the Board of Trustees

### CORONAVIRUS (COVID 19) PANDEMIC ADVISORY RELIEF GRANT

As of today, there are over 1,400 members in UA Local 67. Since the outbreak of the Coronavirus (COVID 19) pandemic, approximately 36% remain unemployed.

Although the government deemed us an essential service as part of the construction categories, a few of the job sites were impacted and were therefore shut down. Members who have also chosen to stay at home through this pandemic has also impacted our numbers.

The percentage of unemployed members prior to the Pandemic was estimated at 20%. During the peak of the Pandemic, the number of unemployed members on the out of work list steadily rose to 42% and although the numbers are slowing falling, as of June 1<sup>st</sup>, we have approximately 36% of our members unemployed. We expect work will continue to increase over the next few months as the government begins to open the economy again, but we're not out of the woods yet.

The Board of Trustees of the UA Local 67, would like to thank all our brothers and sisters for their commitment and strength as you all continue to work through this Pandemic. Thank you for keeping the job sites that are open - running.

We hope that all of our members and their families are staying safe. Please do not hesitate to contact Reliable Administrative Services at the UA Local 67 offices should you need assistance.

Sincerely,

#### Your Board of Trustees

Victor Langdon (Chair)	Steve Foffano
Ross French (Secretary)	Ken Luxon
Nathan Bergstrand	Dave Marcus
Leslie Ellerker	Bill Stanger

## Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)

To assist with the financial uncertainty, the federal government introduced the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) on March 15, 2020. Unfortunately, everyone who found themselves out of work after March 15, 2020 has been funneled into the CERB benefit rather than Employment Insurance. This prevents our members from claiming the Supplementary Unemployment Benefit (SUB). Our SUB plan is registered with Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) under the Employment Insurance Act and is only permitted as a top-up payment to employees who are receiving unemployment benefits under the EI Act.

There has been active conversations with the federal government: lobbying to permit the SUB Plan to offer top-up payments in conjunction with CERB payments. We are hopeful the Federal Government corrects this oversight. Currently, there have been no changes to legislation to allow the top up.

## WELFARE RELIEF GRANT for Members who are Out of Work and collecting CERB or EI-ERB due to COVID-19

The Board of Trustees, along with their Legal Counsel, have approved the issuance of a Welfare Relief Grant in the amount of \$400 per month for members who meet the following criteria:

- **You have worked 600 Welfare Hours in the last 12-month period**
- **You are collecting the monthly CERB or weekly EI-ERB benefit**
- **You have not worked during the period for which you are claiming the Welfare Relief Grant**

Based on current legal guidelines of the Welfare Trust Fund, the Board of Trustees are limited in paying out a Relief Grant that does not exceed 10% of eligible benefit expenses paid out of the Welfare Fund. The Trustees have therefore approved 2 months of Welfare Relief Grant benefits effective March 15, 2020 and will be reviewing this periodically to ensure the amounts paid out are under the maximum allowed.

To apply for the Welfare Relief Grant please complete the attached application, sign the declaration and return to Reliable Administration Inc.

June 2020

## CERB Declaration for Applying for the Welfare Relief Grant

Dear Trustees:

I hereby declare that I am currently in receipt of the Canadian Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) of \$2,000 per 4-week period. As these funds are automatically deposited to my account, I am unable to provide supporting documentation.

Pay Period for which I have received CERB Benefit \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(initial)* I understand and acknowledge that if the Canada Revenue Agency or any other government agency determines at a later date that I did not meet the eligibility requirements for CERB and requires that I repay those benefits, I will also be required to repay any related Welfare Relief Grant benefits paid to me by the Plumbing and Pipefitting Workers Welfare Fund, Local 67 (the "Welfare Fund").

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(initial)* I hereby declare and commit to immediately repay the Welfare Fund any amounts that may be owing if it is determined that I was ineligible to receive CERB benefits.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(initial)* I understand that if I have worked during the pay period stated above, this disqualifies me from receiving the Welfare Relief Grant.

I further declare that the information provided in this letter is true.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(please print)

SIN \_\_\_\_\_